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SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER 1996

# Top judge lambasts Howard

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES Legal Affairs Editor

England's top judge was yes-terday set on a collision course with Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, after attacking the Government's sentencing plans and signalling that he would oppose them in Parlia-

Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, who was holding his first media conference since his appointment in May, insisted that the judges who heard cases were uniquely placed to decide what sentences fitted the

He went on to say that prison did not necessarily "work", and in remarks that will anger the "life must mean life" lobby, he hacked the abolition of the mandatory life sentence for murder. He also criticised the Home Secretary's powers to de-cide the minimum "tariffs" to he served and whether prisoners should be released on li-

Mr Howard, whose decision to raise the tariff of the child killers of James Bulger was quashed by the Court of Appeal, is strongly opposed to all three of these changes. Nor has Jack Straw, his Labour shadow. shown any indication of support.

Lord Bingham, who, as a senior judge, has a seat in the House of Lords, insisted that the judiciary was entitled to voice its opposition the Government's US-style proposals for automatic life terms for twice-convicted serious violent or sexual offenders and minimum sentences for third-time burglars and drug dealers.

The judge who tries a case. who sees and hears from those connected with the victim, who has the whole atmosphere Incally generated by the case. who has very full exposure to the background of the defendant, who is by professional training and experience alive to all the many and complicated issues which affect determination of sentence, should not be told he has to do this, that or the oth-

er willy-nilly," he said. The comments reveal Lord Bingham as perhaps less bluntly spoken than his predecessor. Lord Taylor, but no less independent-minded, Mr Howard's critics in the Lords will take them as their cue to launch an all-out offensive against the plans, but they are bound to regnite claims that the judiciary is seeking to inferfere in political decision-making. John Ma-

#### Some previous judgments

Never in the history of criminal law have such far-reaching proposals been put forward on the strength of such flimsy and dubious evidence." Lord Taylor, former Lord

Sentencing should be left to the courts. If you really want to reduce crime, improve the detection and conviction rates." Lord Hallsham, former Conservative Lord

The proposals would fetter judges' constitutional duty to do justice in mercy on behalf of the Queen." Sir Frederick Lawton, former Court of Appeal judge.

The proposals for minimum and life sentences are contrary to most professional advice. Lord Donaldson, forme Master of the Rolls.

jor has made it clear that he accepts none of the objections to what represents a major incur-sion into judicial discretion, and Mr Howard appealed to peers only last week to cooperate with getting the proposals onto the statule book be-

fore the general election. Lord Bingham insisted that judges were alive to public concern about crime and warned against "knee-jerk reactions" to individual cases. Judges used to be caricatured as "blood-thirsty old men . . . now they are now caricatured as liberal pinkos who never punish anybody. Neither of these caricatures is at all close to the truth."

Asked if prison "worked", he aid: "So long as somebody is in prison, he or she cannot be committing a crime. If you say to me 'do I think that prison makes people better?', the answer is . . . it is not necessarily therapeutic to put an offender among the company for a long period of other offenders. Experience shows that they somelimes learn to become more sophisticated criminals.

Lord Bingham said the case had been made for the mandatory life sentence for adult murderers to be swept away, leaving judges to decide whether to impose a life term or not. He drew a clear distinction between a mercy killing and a profession-al gangster who killed in the course of a robbery.

In a further controversial move, Lord Bingham endorsed demands for research into how juries reach their decisions, and mounted a strong defence of his backing for the incorporation of the European Convention of Human Rights into UK law. He disagreed with the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, that this would draw judges into the political arena.



Fire and ice: Icelanders yesterday braced themselves for massive flooding following a volcanic eruption under the Vetnajoku glacier in the south of the island. Water levels in lakes under the glacier rose to their highest levels this century. On Wednesday the volcano smashed through the glacier, spewing black clouds five miles into the air Photograph: Reuters

### Gulf soldiers were 'poison' victims

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY IAN BURRELL and NICHOLAS SCHOON

The Ministry of Defence admitted yesterday that hundreds of British troops in the Gulf war may have been poisoned by large quantities of pesticides

used in the desert. The announcement was seized npon by campaigners seeking compensation for vic-tims of the so-called Gulf War Syndrome, as evidence that the MoD was responsible for bringing on their illnesses.

.Huge quantities of chemicals were sprayed from planes on to the tents where British troops were living, to give protection against diseases carried by mosquitoes and sand flies.

Since the end of the conflict, 750 serving and former British soldiers have complained of illness, with symptoms includ-ing chronic depression, lack of energy and physical pain. Yesterday, in a letter to Michael Colvin, chairman of the

Commons defence committee. Nicholas Soames, Minister of State for the Armed Forces. said: "It has become clear that organophosphate pesticides (OPs) were used more widely in the Gulf than we had previously been led to believe. This arose because of the understandable difficulties in getting sufficient supplies of pesticides delivered to the Gulf theatre in the early stages of the operation."

Hilary Meredith, a Manchester solicitor representing many claimants, immediately accused the Government of covering up the use of OPs for

five years.
She said: "During the course of litigation we will be able to prove that the MoD knew the extent of OP use in the Gulf as long ago as 1991. We have MoD documentation to prove it and we will be disclosing it during litigation."

In his letter, Mr Soames added: "We wish to know whether any of the Gulf veterans may be ill as a result of exposure to organophosphates so that we can ensure that they are receiving the most appropriate treatment.

However the MoD does not accept the existence of a single illness which could be described as "Gulf War Syndrome".

OPs are now less widely used than they were at the beginning of the 1990s. During the war, large quantities were bought by the British and American forces locally, mainly in Saudi Arabia, to deal with swarms of flies in the marshy areas on the coast and in southern Iraq.

Pesticides manufactured in developing countries have often been found to contain impurities which make them more dangerous. Pesticide poisoning is far more common in the Third World than in the West.

A soldier's story, page 3



#### QUICKLY

Tory battles ahead The fories face a difficult conference, with testering wounds over the European single currency and sleaze set to be георепеа.

#### Contractors are to demolish the home of serial killers Frederick and Rosemary West, in Cromwell Street, Gloucester, nest week.

<sup>3</sup> House goes west

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#### CLARE GARNER

Ann Pearston, the woman leading the Dunhlane campaign to ban handguns, yester-day shrugged off her new political" role and promised to keep telling her message to whoever will listen.

Clearly bemused at being cauight in the crossfire between Labour and the Tories after her speech at the Blackpool conference, she told The Independent: This, to us, is not party political. We're on a train and we don't know where it's taking us. Yesterday it took us to Blackpool ... If we're asked, we go. If we can, we go.

"If they want to start throwing insults at each other, fine, but all that's going to do is convev a message to the public which will not be very nice," said

Mrs Pearston, who votes Con-

Gun campaign mother

caught in the crossfire

Her impassioned speech at the Labour Party conference on Thursday opened and ended with a standing ovation and reduced many Labour delegates to tears. But her eloquent appeal for a han on all handguns prompted a somewhat different response from the Tories.

The Conservative Party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, yesterday accused Labour of cynically breaking the political truce over the gun massacre. "We were appatled," said a Conservative Party spokeswoman. "What we're saying is we don't want a dreadful tragedy like that to be treated like a political football."

en a chance in inviting a "potentially loose cannon ed to say. What the people of Dunhlane wanted to say. They [Labour] didn't know what I was

She did not even toe the Labour Party line, she added. "I urged them [Labour] to go that step further to close the gap be-

A Labour spokeswoman denied that the party was trying to tug heartstrings. "Basically, the Tories are embarrassed," she said. "They are using the excuse of a political football to cover up their embarrassment. Why haven't the Tories invited her? These people want to be

Originally, Mrs Pearston-Mrs Pearston denied she had been a "Labour Party puppet", and that Labour had itself takhoped to go to the Conservative Party Conference. But the cost



Ann Preston: Determined to keep telling her message

of hiring a stand - £3,000 - was more than the Appeal fund could afford. It was only when the Labour Party approached her that she reconsidered the possibility of making an impact during the conference season. Labour paid her expenses.

The absence of an invitation from the Conservatives did not surprise Mrs Pearston. "They have taken a very strong view on waiting on Lord Cullen," she said. "I think they feel I really

### Shere puts the sex into politics MICHAEL STREETER

Sex guru Shere Hitc is famous for claiming that men have failed women in bed; now she claims they have failed them in politics too.

The controversial feminist, best known for her reports on sex, yesterday announced she intended to stand as a member of the European Parliament, defending women's rights. Speaking at the Frankfurt

Book Fair, where she is publicising her autohiography. Ms Hite said: "Governments are not really taking into consideration women's rights in their foreign policy."

She cited the plight of some women in the Middle East. No government has spoken out about what Iran is doing to women in its country. I find this hlindness so trustrating." Ms Hite has now renounced

ternet. She explained: "I will provide an 800-word essay every month on a theme like infidelity, clitoral stimulation or violence

German passport and is married to the German concert pianist, Friedrich Hoericke.

She says she feels more at

home in Germany than the

US. "A lot of people helped me develop myself. I think the at-mosphere here is much more

appropriate to intellectual de-

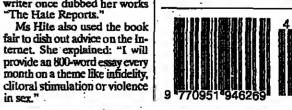
For 20 years, Hite's critics have attacked her question-naire research methods, calling

her hest-selling reports "mas-turbation manuals". Some US

academics call her "Sheer Hype" and one British woman

writer once dubbed her works

The Hate Reports."



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### Don't dismiss the craziness of modern artists — they go where six-year-olds fear to tread

how we should read this remark - was it merely a paraphrase of Schoenberg's mation of a body, each with two indented anxiety, an attempt to describe the vertigo of a composer newly liberated from when they face the room in which these traditional harmonics? Or were we to read homunculi are arrayed is not the quality it as a self-evident statement of truth? Plenty of people would happily subscribe to the latter view, in particular those who think that the tidal ebb of aesthetic obedience in the current century has exposed a slimy expanse of junk-dotted mud. It is very easy to turn the remark from a reminder that the true artist is always disciplined (even if they invent a new discipline) into a philistine sneer at artists whose work is not underwritten by traditional methods - a different way of saying that the lunatics have taken over the asylum.

The logic of complete freedom leads to the madhouse," Simon Rattle was looking at Antony Gormley's Field. a startling and thought-provoking installation at the Hayward Gallery. The work wasn't easy to see from the context exactly crudely moulded into a rough approxiof each individual figure. You could say of them, calling up another commonplace aggression against modern art, that "my six-year-old could do that". Indeed, this judgement is incontrovertible - Gormley used ordinary people to help make his fig-ures, including children, whose smaller hands have produced infants for this wondrous population. But what exactly would you think if your six-year-old had done this - if every spare minute was bent to the creation of little figures, which were

#### THOMAS SUTCLIFFE



cover all horizontal surfaces? You would, surely, call a psychiatrist, even if your parental indulgence lasted beyond the 1,000 mark. Encountered anywhere but in an art gallery such behaviour - obsessive and fixated - would call for a clinical explanation, not a critical one.

This is not to argue that Gormley is then neatly arranged in a bedroom to deranged (though, like many artists, be

may like to think of himself as not quite cluttered bed-sit. Both those artists worked as sane as the next man) but it is to sug-with traditional media but the almost limgest that one of the features of the art of this century has been a readiness to see that psychosis might have things to tell us. And in the case of Field, the absence of reasonable limits delivers surprisingly rich reasonable imits delivers surprisingly from dividends. This piece isn't just marvellous to look at – it stirs in the viewer thoughts of megalomania, benevolence, dread and cruelty (judging from overheard conversations, I wasn't the only one who felt an impulse to run into the room and tram-

ple these tiny, beseeching figures).

And there are incontrovertibly great artists who bave gone even further in the pursuit of a single goal – both Mondrian and Giacometti might serve as examples of artistic compulsion that could easily look deranged if the inspection bad dif-ferent motives in mind – if the viewer was a psychiatric social worker and the paintings and sculptures were to be found in a

itless definition of what might now count as art bas greatly expanded the repertoire not figure as an art installation. Indeed, of derangement. It isn't very difficult to the reason why most galleries would probfind a contemporary artist to match almost ably refuse is that it would be a bit old hat. any pathological symptom. Some mentally ill people collect their own faeces—so did Pietro Manzoni, in numbered tin-cans which he then sold to collectors. Some people suffer from a condition called dysmorphophobia, addictively visiting plastic surgeons to alter their appearance - so does the artist Orlan, who records ber

grisly transformations on videotape. This raises an obvious problem of discrimination. Coming out of the Hayward, I passed a homeless man pushing a railway trolley stacked with an office chair and a section of timber-veneered partition wall. Given an articulate rationale about these objects - an interest in "the fragility of the From next week, this column will appear permanent", say, or an exploration of on Thursdays

is no reason why such an assemblage might Been there, done that.

Such facts are taken by conservatives as evidence for the general debasement of contemporary art. They aren't, but they do suggest that the viewer's duty of judgement begins rather earlier than h did in the 19th century, when the threshold question was not "Is this art at all?" but "Is it any good?" For my money, Orlan urgently needs to see a doctor, not another suggest but such cases shouldn't another surgeon, but such cases shouldn't blind us to the fact that for some fine artists, "the road to the madhouse" has turned out to be a fascinating excursion, not a hideous wrong-turning.

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cover photo: Robert Harding



# ilthy rich and on the hoot

wednesday Mr Wafie Said, the widely espected Syrian philanthropist and friend the stars, laid out a little loose change on a couple of new toys. That other people regard the price of a mansion in Wandsworth as loose change is sobering to con-template but, then, war has been pretty profitable ower the past decade and there's plenty of the old lucre to go around for those in the know. Mr Said's introductions of friends to friends may have led him to unsavoury places, but you don't get to be a major player in the racing world with-

out making sacrifices.

The setting for these particular sacrifices was Newmarket, spiritual home of all thoroughbreds, and the scene was Tattersalls' 1996 Houghton Yearling Sales. Bidding through one Tim Bulwer-Long, Said bought a couple of colts: a son of Nashwan out of Music and Dance and the product of a tryst between Sadlers Wells and the American mare Impatiente. The first was a

the product of a tryst between Sadiers Wells and the American mare Impatiente. The first was a snip at 400,000 guineas: the second a very reasonable 500,000. Guineas, of course, add up: 500,000 guineas in real money is £525,000. Whoops, better make another introduction. It's been a good year for Tattersalls. In just over three hours' hard selling on Tuesday evening £7.136,850 changed hands. This was an increase of £2,850,000 on the same night last year. Racing, like every other luxury occupation, has been hit hard by the recession, but those green shoots of recovery were twining themselves round everyone hard by the recession, but those green shoots of recovery were twining themselves round everyone in the husiness this week. Fifty-three per cent of this eash was accounted for by Wafic Said, Sheikh Mohammed. John Magnier and Michael Tabor. Dealer Demi O'Byrne, bidding on behalf of Tabor and Magnier, scruped up \$80,000 hard-camed guineas for a colt by Kingmambo. This staggering price was, in fact, only the equal 10th highest price ever achieved at the sales. Prices haven't gone into seven figures since 1988, when Classic Thoroughbreds handed over 2,400,000 guineas for a colt called Classic Music, brother of Sadlers Wells. The horse never raced, and died in 1993 Wells. The horse never raced, and died in 1993 after two seasons at stud. An excellent investment

for anybody's money. This orgy of gamhling on a scale that puts Monte Carlo to shame takes place in the immaculate Park Paddocks, a faultlessly mown and pampered complex of loose boxes and sale rings belonging to the bloodstock auctioneers. The carpark is an education in itself; polished metal, taken off the drivers hands and slotted into perfect rows by an army of

#### **SERENA MACKESY**



In another life

'A snip at 500,000 guineas.' At Tattersalls' 1996 Yearling Sales, the punters wage a war of nerves, the spectators gawp, the thoroughbreds are nervous. Let the orgy of gambling begin ... Photograph by Nick Turpin

see, not only do you never have to change gear by hand, you never have to learn to reverse at all: there will always be someone to do it for you. Walking there from the station, a bit shop-soiled after

ing there from the station, a bit shop-soiled after half an hour on a train full of screaming school-children, was good culture-shock training.

The first thing you notice about the crowd at the Houghton is that they're giving nothing away. This may be a scrious spectator sport —on Tuesday there were probably 200 gawpers for every big player involved—but everyone certainty the pulse of proinvolved - but everyone gets into the swing of pre-tending they're there pitted against each other in a war of nerves. People in headscarves assumed poker faces, muttered to each other out of the corners of their mouths. This was no mean feat: if there's one thing you don't associate with horsey people it's soft-spokenness. Generations of making yourself heard across the windy Downs have bred a certain foghorn quality into the equestrian classes, and keeping your voice down if you're one of them is about as easy as keeping your pinkies off a pension fund if your name's Bob Maxwell.

The next thing you notice is how clean everything is. The place gleams. Lawns are cropped to within an inch of their lives, a peculiar Romanesque pagoda thines with a whiteness worthy of a Daz doorstep challenge, tarmac is black, black, black. The several hundred boxes are Creosoted into uniformity. Even the taxes seem to have bad their formity. Even the trees seem to have bad their leaves stapled on for optimum coverage. The odd thing about this is that this is a place designed for horses, and horses, while being nice beasts with many excellent qualities such as nobility, loyalty, men in maroun bomber jackets. If you're rich, you speed and enormous teeth, are not renowned for

their cleanliness. There were 75 lots at the sale oo Tuesday, and, being highly strung babies, they were jolly nervous. And yet one quickly realised that there was absolutely no need to watch one's step. The place was swarming with men in green coats. They came in pairs. One carried a broom, the other a massive pooper-scooper. The moment some descendant of the Godolphin Arabian expressed its distress, they pounced on the results. This must

be one of the great showstoppers in the public bars of Newmarket. What do you do for a living, then? In the Chifney Restaurant, tea was in full swing. Beneath a huge oil of men in frock coats and toppers leaning on canes at the original Tattersall at Hyde Park Corner (the firm was established in 1766), people in Barbours and quitted waistcoats chowed through sponge cake and Mariboros. You could tell the buyers from their advisers at a glance. The members of the horse world wore jeans and V-necked sweaters and those wonderfully ancient tweed jackets only the British can get away with. Those whom they were there to advise were fully kitted out in suits and top-pocket kerchiefs. Their womenfolk were seriously manicured. My mobile

phone rang. The 30 people within earshot flung themselves on their handbags.

A group of Japanese went through the whole head-nodding routine. Earlier in the upper stables and I does not see them introduced by the stables of them introduced by the second of the secon leyard, I'd seen one of them inspecting a very sweet-looking chestnut filly. He had walked round her clockwise, then he walked widdershins. Then, standing as far as his arm would allow from the twitching mammal, he reached out and touched the very tippy-tips of his fingers to her neck. She

jumped. He jumped higher, and retreated to the safety of his group. Bloodstock is business like any-thing else these days. You don't have to actually

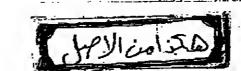
like horses to buy one. By the upper sale paddock, knots of potential buyers and faux-buyers watched the yearlings being walked out. There was something a bit pathetic about the thought of all these habies, who have lived their lives so far at home with the people who lived their lives so far at home with the people who bred them, plodding trustingly into pantechnicons to be bartered. I had a bonding session with Lot 28, a chestnut filly by the American stallion Lion Cavern out of a mare who, seriously folks, was called Bint Secreto. She had the kind, elever eye of a good eventer, and kept glancing at me as she went past. She sold later for 46.000 guineas. Beside me, four men in blazers discussed deals in West Country accepts. "She looks like she might

in West Country accents. "She looks like she might be the right sort," said one. "Yes," said another, "but you have to ask why he's selling her now. You have to question his faith in her as a two-year-old."

Inside the sale ring, the auctioneer was warming to his task, dosie-dohing his way through six-figure sums like the leader of a Line-dancing session. He scarcely paused to draw breath as he forced the deadpan bidders to ever more extravagant heights, and his colour rose with the prices as oxygen starvation set in. The auctioneers swapped over every few lots: presumably they then collapsed off-stage, gasping like well-hooked pike.
The main performer was surrounded by men in sober suits and Tattersalls ties who signalled to the bidders. I failed to identify a single one of toese. so minuscule were their movements. A board behind the auctioneers' heads gave the price in pounds, French francs, marks, US dollars and yen.

The arena was filled with a constant buzz of lowlevel chat as the horse world went about its business. And over the top of it all, the echo of auction patter: "A right good goer she is at 30,000," cried the auctioneer. "Forty thousand, It's not his value, but he's on the market, 1 sell him." "At 60,000," he fixed a reluctant bidder with a practised eye, "DON'T STOP NOW!" The crowd seemed sanguine about these sums: a hush only

seemed sangume about these sums: a hush only fell when the price rose above the 290,000 level. In less than half an hour, I watched £1,243,200 change bands. After that I had to go out and get some fresh air and a reality check. By the paddock door, a blazer shook hands with a suit. "You after anything in particular?" asked the suit. "Well," replied the blazer, "there doesn't seem to be that much to how. But I date say we'll do some dam. much to buy. But I dare say we'll-do some dam-



Insecticides have ruined health of hundreds of Gulf War veterans, writes Ian Burrell

## Syndrome? No - the men were poisoned

Paul Ash went off to war bursting with pride and prepared to die in the cause of hringing down Saddam Hussein.
Last night, he was struggling to
come to terms with the possibility that his life had been ruined not by the Iragis

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Correction

- July 4

but by pesticide sprayed by the British Army and his own colleagues.
Armying in the Sandi Arabian desert
as a 24-year-old Fusilier, Mr Ash had been alarmed by the ferocity of the local mosquitoes. The insects swarmed off nearby marshlands to enjoy a feed-ing frenzy on the British troops encamped in the desert.

We had never experienced anything like it before. The mosquitoes were taking great chunks out of the troops and the lads were coming out in massive hlotches," he said.

The Army's response was to bring in thousands of gallons of pesticide which was sprayed liberally ooto tents, clothing and vehicles.

Places flew overhead, spewing the chemicals on to the "tent villages", while other soldiers walked aroood with hand-held sprays to douse their colleagues in the repellant. Mr Ash said: "It was just like a mist of the stuff, We didn't really have time

to take notice of what was going on and nobody told us they were spraying us for a reason. We just assumed it was because of the mosquitoes."
It was only after Ash returned from

the war, ostensibly as a hero, to his Northumberland home, that he realised he may not have escaped unscathed.
Suddenly, the once super-fit infantryman was so weak he could hardly walk. He had to give up football and then began to show symptoms of seri-"I was constantly vomiting. I had

pains in my joints and my stomach hurt so much I thought I had ulcers."

Now 29, he greeted yesterday's an-nouncement by the Ministry of Defence with relief: "It is very good that even-tually somebody has stood up and said: 'Hang on, we have done something wrong here and we have not investigated it in the manner that we should

"It shows that, five years after the guys first started complaining, the MoD are finally accepting that they may have damaged the lads. But it should have come earlier."

Mr Ash is one of 740 Gulf veterans suing the Ministry of Defence for compensation for illness they have suffered since returning from the con-flict. Those who believe in the so-called Gulf War syndrome say it has caused at least 15 deaths. The families of 30 more Gulf veterans who bave taken their own lives blame the experience of the Gulf for hringing on depression

which led to their suicides.

The MoD still refuses to acknowledge that Gulf War syndrome exists. Nicholas Soames, the armed forces minister, said last year that the veterans' claims were "a mixture of unsubstantiated rumour and incorrect information". His revelation yesterday that "organophosphate pesticides were used more widely in the Gulf than we had previously been led to believe" was seeo as a softening in the government

Some veterans blame their listlessness, nausea and aching limbs on the tablets the troops were given to pro-tect them from chemical attack by the Iraqis. Others attribute the symptoms to post traumatic stress disorder brought on by the war itself.

Mr Ash believes the latest MoD admission is evidence of similarities with the fate of some farmers who have become chronically depressed and violent He left the Army and although he has found work as a local government in sheep-dip. I think there is a defiofficer, he is registered as 60% disabled. nite link, he said.



Soldiers of bad fortune? Allied tanks in Saudia Arabia during the war and (below) Paul Ash today

#### Victims' battle

FEBRUARY 1991 - The Gulf War ends. JUNE 1993 - Gulf War Syndrome hits the headlines as

Today newspaper reveals that hundreds of soldiers were suffering from bleeding gums, hair and weight loss and facial paralysis. MoD denies the ailment exists:

MAY 1994 - A committee of Independent medical experts say that the illness does exist but fail to pinpoint a cause. NOVEMBER 1994 - 24 British Gulf War veterans have requests

for legal aid granted to prepare claims against the MoD FEBRUARY 1995 - 480 sufferers of the syndrome inform the MoD that they intend to sue for compensation.

APRIL 1995 - Government announces in the Lords that it is not prepared to pay compensation. JUNE 1995 - Ministry of Defence dismisses Gulf War Syndrome,

saying that alleged sufferers are victims of chronic fatigue. NOVEMBER 1995 - The defence select committee criticises the MoD for being insensitive to the victims of the syndrome. MARCH 1996 - Tests on veterans shows first physical evidence



### Starting Monday



### Independent Decade

A week of special features looking through the eyes of The Independent at the great events since we launched, at home, abroad, on the sporting field, and in the world of business and culture.

From Tuesday Section Two will be reborn in a startling and innovative new form

Next Saturday We will be bringing you a bright new package, including a new TV and entertainment listings magazine, and



### Chemicals' deadly side-effects

NICHOLAS SCHOON Environment Correspondent

Organophosphorous (OP) pes-ticides are widely used against insects in agriculture. There is growing concern about their long term impacts on human health and the damage they do to nervous systems. Research is continuing into

how they effect peripheral nerves and the brain. In Britain, the fears have mounted be-cause of the hundreds of farmers who appear to have suffered severe, long term illness after us-

ing OP sheep dip chemicals. -Dr Goran Jamal, a consultant at the Institute of Neurological Sciences in Glasgow, said: There's no dispute that there is a short term effect oo people exposed to OPs and an intermediate-term effect." First

there are flu-like symptoms of lethargy and dizzyness, followed by a weakening of the muscles around the hips and shoulders after three days."

Less is known about the more severe long term effects, believed to result from repeated exposure. Dr Jamal said:

limbs." Furthermore, victims seem to suffer some memory loss, harm to their sense of balance, depression, fatigue and a change of personality which makes them far more prone to

All the pesticides listed by the Government are licensed for use in Britain following toxicity testing on animals. But they should only be used in strict accordance with safety rules, wearing protective clothing and there is evidence that both American and British troops

to the ocryes in the when the pesticides were Furthermore, victims sprayed, Malathion - which the suffer some memory Ministry of Defence had already admitted taking to the Gulf - is regarded as one of the safest OPs. It can be bought over the counter in chemists' for head Jamal said the warnings in the leaflet which accompanies the quate. Dimethyl phosphoroth-ionate, otherwise known as fenitrothion, and azamethiphos houses, and Diazinon for use in

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### Secretive tycoons lose their challenge to privacy laws

Secretive tycoon twins David and Frederick Barclay today lost their High Court challenge to the privacy laws in an action which could have had a devastating effect on TV documen-

tary making.

The pair, said to be worth around £600 million, were angry that they had spent millions buying an uninhabited Channel island and building a gigantic Gothic castle on it - only for it to be "invaded" by a BBC2 television reporter in a small

They lodged an immediate protest with the Broadcasting Complaints Commission (BCC) but were told oothing could be done until after any programme

was broadcast. The 61-year-old brothers applied to the High Court for a ju-dicial review of the BCC's interpretation of the part of the Broadcasting Act which governs

But in a riding today, Mr Jusrice Sedley said the law at present places no general





Island mansion: The Barclay Brothers' home being built on the Island of Brecchoo

constraints upon invasions of ment over the right to privacy privacy as such in English law and its lack of He said that the Act "unambiguously limits the power of the

BCC to adjudication upon complaints of infringement of privacy against the BBC arising out of programmes which have

Under the statute governing remedy before a national auhis or her private and family life twins. They had refused per-

Convention on Human Rights "will doubtless not end here". But he refused leave to appeal because he said the intention of the law was clear.

The issue arose over investigations by BBC journalists for the media programme, The the BCC's powers, and gener the media programme, The ally in English law, "the indi- Spin, which was eventually vidual is without an effective broadcast in October 1995 and is now the subject of a complaint thority if the right to respect for to the BCC by the Barciay

reporterJohn Sweeney went there by small boat and wandered around before heing shipped back to Sark.

Mark Shaw, for the BCC, had told the judge: "No doubt there was an invasion. But Parliament has taken the view that a line has to be drawn and that line is after there has been a broadcast. If Parliament had intended the law to apply before a broadcast it would have said so. The Barclays' application, if allowed. would amount to a "gagging or-

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### **Prescott** on song as week ends in a bang

#### STEPHEN GOODWIN

John Prescott yesterday wound up Labour's week in Blackpool with a blistering attack on Tory "immorality" and a restate-ment of the vision of a Decent Society set out by Tony Blair in his keynote speech. With a mix of variety-club

humour exploiting Tory disarray and earnest pledges on creating jobs and social justice, the Labour deputy leader, won a prolonged standing ovation.

But the send-off rally was not without hiccups. There was embarrassment when Mr Prescott lost track of his speech and was unable to ad-lib his way through Labour's five key pledges.

"These five pledges are es-sential," he blustered. "You can see I can't find them." They were set out in giant letters on the wing of the stage set, but Mr Prescott eventually unearthed the prompt card which party campaigners will be using then rattled off the pledges: "Smaller classes, tough on erime, shorter waiting lists,

more jobs, a stronger economy."

More alarming was the explosive interruption to the singing which traditionally closes the conference. "The Red Flag was delivered with gusto
Tony and Cheric Blair joining in with studied visibility - and delegates were rocking along to D-ream's Things Can Only

Get Better" when there was an

overhead explosion.

The music stopped, some in the hall went into a nervous semi-crouch, then confetti began falling from a billow of smoke. As the "Labour X" mini ballot papers floated down, the celebrations stu-tered back to life. Officials said later the cannon had been too loud and the music should not have stopped. Special Branch had been informed of the stunt.

Mr Prescott delivered the type of speech that bas made him a conference favourite. He lavished praise on delegates for their show of unity, bring-ing together "all strands in the party - old and new - bringing together the politics of ideas and



United we stand: John Prescott being joined at the rostrum by Tony Blair after delivering his rousing send-off speech

the politics of organisation", He went on: "This week will go down in bistory as the week when Labour - a party reborn, proud of its heritage, confident of its future - clearly proved it is ready for government.

The Tories, by contrast, were divided, desperate and danger-

ous, he said. John Major was running scared of Labour, of his own MPs and of an election. Turning on the Prime Minister's call for ethics to come back into politics, Mr Prescott said that for many Tories, morality meant not getting caught. "If John Major is serious about morality, he

sbould let Nolan look into party funding." Morality was about fairness and social justice. Where was the morality in peo-ple being bussed between hospitals or 16-year-olds forced to sleep rough on the streets? What was really immoral, Mr

Prescott said, was a record num-

Photograph: Brian Harris ber of homeless and bundreds of 1992 election defeat was burnt thousands of workers trapped in unemployment when £5bn from

up. "Labour's coming bome. And when we are in government, Cathy can come home too." Urging on the party foot sol-

into his memory - Neil Kinnock on the steps of Walworth Road conceding defeat with dignity and emotion. "That image will council houses remained locked only be extinguished when we see Tony Blair on the steps of 10 Downing Street, announcing

'Stake' out as vogue word takes back seat

#### **ANTHONY BEVINS** Political Editor

The Blair buzz word of the year, "stakeholding", virtually van-ished from the face of the conference this week, with only a handful of delegates even men-

tioning the word.
Certainly, Tony Blair did not utter it in his speech on Tuesday, in spite of the fact that the launch of the "stakeholding" project had beeo beralded as a new phase in Labour's modemisation when the leader made it the centrepiece of a speech in Singapore. In a follow-up speech, he referred to the importance of companies treating

their employees as partners.

While the idea of partnership remains, the word, "stakeholding" appears to have died a death. But it did emerge again yesterday when Janette Streener, a delegate from Rutland and . Melton, Leicestershire, said: "This is and must remain a 🕻 stakebolder party, a strong par-ty, with strong leadership which will listen to us."

That prompted Tom Sawyer, the party's general secretary, to tell conference: "The biggest stakeholders for the party are the British people; we bold the party in trust for the people."

But as the conference ended more speakers, on more occasions, had used the word "socialism" than "stakeholding" a subtle linguistic victory for Old

# WHATHE WAS

It takes a special kind of insurance company to rise to the challenge of the special needs of disabled drivers. So how did Motability, the charity that supplies cars to the disabled, choose who to cover all 250,000 of their vehicles (the largest fleet contract in Europe), not to mention their own very special requirements?

They needed an insurance company who had highly sophisticated telecom technology. But also people who could deal with the special problems of disabled drivers in a sympathetic way over the phone. Which was far less straightforward.

"The way the local worldorce had adapted to dealing direct gave us the confidence to look at opportunities such as Motability."

Telecommunications technology? That was easy. Merseyside has just about the most advanced system in Europe, and with the telecom-trained staff to go with it.

But it was the staff of the Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance that tipped the balance. Not just their skills, but their attitude.

Every staff member on the Motability project went on a disability awareness course (which included negotiating Liverpool City Centre in a wheelchair!) to give them the nght level of understanding when talking directly on the phone to a disabled claimant, co-ordinating things like garage repairs and emergency transport.

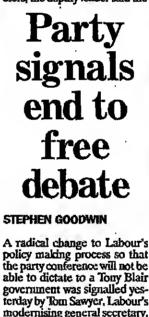
" For Motability, fully comprehensive meant more than just policy cover it meant handling the special needs of disabled drivers. Our Merseyside staff rose to that challenge."

Adaptability and enthusiasm have been the watchwords of Merseyside for a generation. The clerical skills developed by companies like Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance and Littlewoods 20 years ago are now the telephone skills of today's generation using state of the art equipment.

And look at some of the other companies investing on Merseyside- Kodak, Ford, Barclays and oil and gas exploration company, BHP.

Of course they're here for the technology. Of course they're here for the low operational costs, site availability, grants and assistance, training and two world class Universities

But in the end what makes Merseyside truly unique is the element that swayed Motability. The premium difference was the people.



policy making process so that the party conference will not be able to dictate to a Tony Blair terday by Tom Sawyer, Labour's modernising general secretary.

During a prickly session on party organisation and policy making in which one delegate complained of "dark forces" plotting the conference's demise, Mr Sawyer said Labour could not afford to repeat past

conflicts. "We cannot afford to squander the work we bave done now and throw it away with arguments and differences between the party and the [Labour] gov-

Moves are already underway to trim the power of the National Executive Committee. but Mr Sawyer yesterday fo-cused on the deficiencies of the conference as a policy making body. "I don't believe that hundreds of people out there, hope fully waving their bands in the air for the possible, but remote, opportunity of having three nutes at this rostrum really does add up to a democratic conference process," be said.

But after several pot-shots were taken at the "centralist" tendencies of the leadership, Mr Sawyer, on a return to the ros-trum, said the only way the role of the conference could be altered was by a decision of the conference itself.

"Conference is the policy-making body of the Labour Party. It is set out in the rules and there are no plans to change that," he told sceptical For the first time in the par-

will bave an opportunity to vote on the draft manifesto. Karen Price, of Neath, said it was "ridiculous" to think that policy could be decided by a - No" referendum. Activists should not be taken for

ership to set local policy forums. Simon McKcown, of Southwark and Bermondsey, hit out at the "dark forces" who wanted to do away with the conference and at the hlatant stage management. To protests, he said that at future conferences "glamourously clad PPCs will be worshipped by wretched, manacled but smiling constituency delegates".

Joan Abrams, of Hazel Grove, said it was obvious that very few people who disagreed with the platform had been allowed to speak during the week in Blackpool. The party's chances of winning the election might be helped if the leadership could be seen as able to accept criticism and was "not afraid of being defeated occasionally", she said.



for his New Covenant speech and defeat-free

job in the Lords for standing by lan Greer .

### "Can't we just go back to Bambi? Or maybe Kim II Sung's

official title? The Great Wise Leader, President for Life, Dearly Beloved and Sagacious Leader'?" Tony Blair on his

"Life's better under the Tories - Sounds to me like one of Steve Norris's chat-up lines." John Prescott.

Harriet Harman after retaining her seat on the national executive

JOKE OF THE WEEK "Someone said to Harriet Harman, Tve got a problem with the Kashmir'. She replied, 'Take it down to the dry cleaners." Tribune Rally

EGO TRIP OF THE WEEK Baroness Castle, 85, and still able to milk the conference while

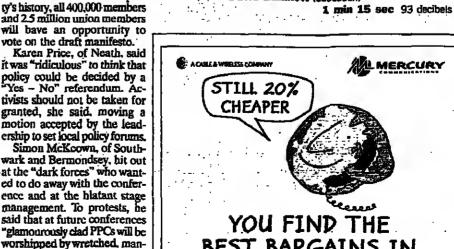
twisting her pensioner's knife in Ms Harman

identity of the Sierra owner who convinced Tony Biair Labour would lose the 1992 election.

SPIN DOCTOR OF THE WEEK Peter Mandelson, Intervening during a live TV interview with Diane Abbott, scribbling notes to the producer.

RAPTUREMETER OF THE WEEK Tony Blair 6 min 9 sec 95 decibels 3 min 42 sec 95 decibels 1 min 39 sec 94 decibels Gordon Brown (shadow chancellor) 1 min 25 sec 95 decibels

David Blunkett (education)

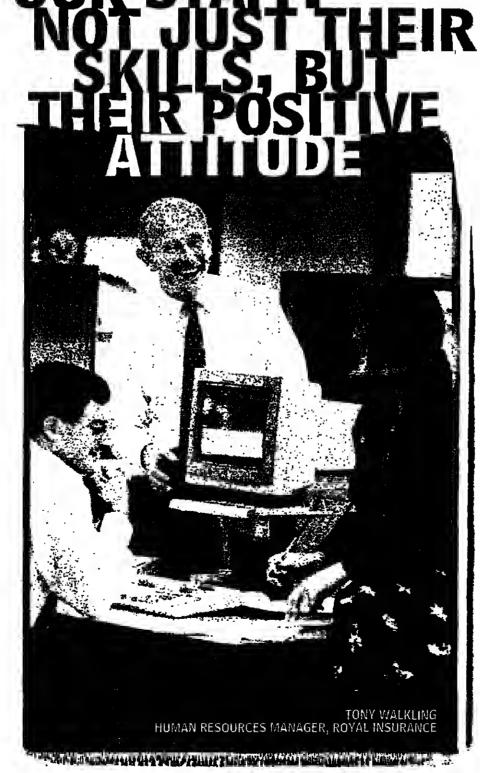


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Standards in virtually all examination subjects have remained unchanged over the last 20 years, according to a draft report of the first big inquiry into standards.

The explanation for the widespread perception that stan-dards at GCSE and A-level are falling may be that pupils need much wider knowledge for exams in the Nineties than they did in the Seventies.

As a result, the report is be-lieved to suggest, standards in some traditional skills in maths have declined though those in new areas such as statistics are improving. Views about what pupils should learn have also changed, so that exams put more emphasis on understanding and less on learning

The inquiry, set up by Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, has caused a row between the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) and the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority which conducted it.

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools and head of Ofsted, is understood to share the traditionalists' view that there is evidence that standards are falling. Sir Ron Dearing, the authority's head, and his officials are thought to believe that the report gives a fair pic-

The inquiry team, which emphasises the difficulty of drawing firm conclusions on the ailable evidence, looked at syllabuses, papers, exam scripts and mark schemes in English, maths and chemistry since 1975 when the old 0-level exam was

still in place. Only in maths did they find any evideoce that exams might

At A-level, pure maths ap-pears to be less demanding and there is less emphasis on al-gebra, problem-solving and reasoning though mechanics standards remain the same and those in statistics are getting bet-

At GCSE, they found maths exams are as hard as they were in the Seventies for most students, though the best candidates are not doing as well in some topics, for example,

The draft points out that there have been big changes in the maths syllabuses for both exams so that students are now expected to carry out a much wider range of operations. In English A-level, there has

been no change, the report suggests, and in chemistry the differences are small: current exams put less emphasis on learning facts and more on understanding.
English GCSE syllahuses

have become harder since 1975, the inquiry concludes, but information about standards is limited. The available evidence suggests that it is no easier now than 20 years ago to get one of the top three grades, A - C.

In chemistry, too, students need to know more than they did in 1975 and there has been a shift away from learning facts to applying knowledge, The in-troduction of double science may have led to a decline in knowledge about basic con-

The report, due to be published before Christmas, is unlikely to settle the standards dispute which is fuelled each year by rising pass-rates at both GCSE and A-level.

The team found that the evidence was limited because the exam boards could not produce scripts for the Seventies, though a few had some from the Eight-



There's still a place in Britain so dry that you have to take the train to buy a drink on Sunday



Ale express: The train from Porthmadog to Blaenau Pfestiniog

The last "dry" area of Wales is about to succumh to Sunday drinking. After more than 30 years of closed doors, the 60odd pubs in the Dwyfor district around Porthmodog will be freed from the non-alcoholic confines of the Sabbath.

For the moment, however, the judicious drinker who prefers to leave the car at home has to take the train. Local people have been known to be so desperate for a drink that they have even resorted to a trip on the licensed Ffestimog railway among the crowds of tourists.

. The ban was imposed by the hibited the sale of alcohol throughout Wales. But the Act provided for area polls every seven years to decide between "wet" and "dry" status as long as at least 500 electors have signed a petition. One by one the bans have been swept away.

That beer and dominoes effect left the North Wales area of Dwyfor as the last bastion of Sunday sobriety, but next month, it will almost certainly fall.

The Seven-Day Opening Council and all-Wales body. secured the necessary signatures to trigger a poll in Dwyfor. And thanks to local government reorganisation, the voters of wet" Arfon and Meirionnydd will be entitled to vote; Dwyfor's ty's coffers – it would be a sheer 1989 vote of 5,951 to 4,563 in waste of public money" he said.

favour of staying "dry" is certain to be swallowed up.

Roger Jones, landlord of the Golden Fleece in Tremadog, has had to turn away thirsty visitors ever since he took over the pub 22 years ago. "It's as difficult to get a Sunday drink here as it is in Saudi Arabia. Tourists are be-wildered - they rightly expect to be able to pop in for a pint every day of the week" he said.

Porthmadog, a little seaside town is barely a mile inside the alcohol exclusion zone. Mike Morris, manager of the Australia Inn is used to watching the cavalcade of cars carrying potential customers to "wet" Penrhyn-deudraeth. "We lose a fortune in the summer." be said rue!

A poll may also be beld in the Rhondda Cynon Taff district, for long a "wet" area, where 500 "drys" have lodged a petition. Last night, council officials were still checking the docu-mentation. We have to make sure everything is watertight and that will take us into next week"

a council spokesman said. The cost of each poll is put at around £50,000. a statistic which outrages David Baird-Murray, a Llandrindod Wells botelier who chairs the Seven Day Opening Council. "We believe that whoever is behind the petition is behaving irresponsi-bly. The cost would have to come out of the local authoriwaste of public money" he said.

### FRIED LAMB. Ingredients: A mother, her badly injured son and several armed police, including a female informer. Method: Handcuff mother and son. Blindfold and strip. Push into water tanks connected to electricity supply. Submerge heads in toilet containing excrement. Burn with eigarettes. Dress dying son to look like suicide. Dump mother unconscious in street.

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Football trial witness accused STEVE BOGGAN The chief prosecution witness in the trial of three footballers accused of rigging games was re-manded in custody yesterday, charged with attempting to per-vert the course of justice. Chris Vincent, 38, a former business partner of Bruce Grobbelaar, one of the foot-ballers, stands accused of offering "to fail to appear to give evidence in exchange for financial reward." Mr Vincent, of Gadbridge Farm, Forest Green Road, Hollyport, Berkshire, appeared yesterday before a stipendiary magistrate at Aldershot in Hampshire, where he was remanded for seven days. He was charged "with the in-

Chris Vincent: Remanded in custody for seven days

former Wimbledon striker, his former team-mate Hans Segers. and Heng Suan Lim, a Malaysian businessman.

They face charges relating to match-fixing, charges which they all deny. It was not clear yesterday

whether their trial, scheduled to be heard at Winchester Crown Court next January, would be affected. A spokeswoman for the Crown Prosecution Service said the case was being re-

A bail application was made on Mr Vincent's behalf during yesterday's 50-minute hearing. but it was refused. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

tober 2.

nancial reward." The alleged of-

fence is said to have happened

between September 25 and Oc-

Mr Vincent was due to ap-

pear as a witness in the trial of

Mr Grohbelaar, 38, the former

Liverpool and Zimbabwe goal-

keeper, Hohn Fashanu, 32; the

Is it time for the fat lady to stop singing in English? Page 7

### Fred West house to be demolished

JOJO MOYES

Contractors will begin work on Monday to demolish completely the Cromwell Street home of serial killers Frederick and Rosemary West and a derelict neighbouring building. The street will be sealed off

to traffic and a police guard mounted to stop ghoulish sou-venir-hunters plundering the house and garden for relics of where Fred West huried nine of the couple's victims.

Gloucester City Council announced yesterday that it had bought the property, where the Wests lived for two decades, for £40,000 and the neighbouring building for an undisclosed sum.

Contractors will work or 15 days until the last vestiges of the building have gone - the hricks will be removed one by one; the timbers burned, and the fittings melted down. The hricks and mortar are to be crushed, mixed

then used to fill prepared holes in undisclosed parts of the giant council waste tip at Hemp-"cap" will cover the cleared site.

The wrought-iron sign "25 Cromwell Street" which epitomised the House of Horrors is

A survey company, Robertson Bell Associates, is to carry at the centre of a legal tussle. Senior members of the West family are understood to have laid claim to the sign which was removed by Gloucester Police within days of the arrest of Fred and his wife Rosemary - to de-ter souvenir hunters. It has remained under lock and key at Gloucester's Central Police Sta-

with other general waste, and police must first decide who should be given it.

West, 53, hanged himself on 1 January 1995, in his remand cell at Birmingham Prison while sted, and immediately covered cell at Birmingham Prison while over. At the end of the demolition an inches-thick concrete counts. His wife, Rosemary, 42, is serving life imprisonment The city council said that the strategy of complete destruction was decided on because of the "sensitive nature of the site".

The city council said that the after being convicted of murdering 10 girls and young women, including her daughter Heather, 16, and eight-year-old stendaughter Charmaine.

> out a public consultation exercise on the site's future and will take in views of relatives of victims and local residents. The costs of this and the demolition are expected to reach £40,000. Cash from the sale of the West's home will be sent to the Offi-cial Solicitor, who is overseeing Frederick West's estate for the benefit of his five youngest children, four of whom are still



tion, awaiting a legal decision on its future. Gloucester City Council want it destroyed, but TELEVISIONS SME 130 1299.20 OVER 80 IN-STORE ANYA HAPICES NOVE Sheet lades Actions for a New Lades Actions of the Antonio Actions of the Acti PORTABLE TVe 20 d29 m WC HEAD IN THE REST TOSHIBA - ET IN TOWN "See 15 1174.5 SAMSUNG PONT 50E 50 1329 m 20"-33" TVs see (120 £179.se PANASONIC POST 50 **299** s MORE IN-STORE GOODMANS TO THE CALL SEE 50 (3994 CSOOMS OFFI SAN SEN 100° (49.5) PACE was a second of the secon TOSHIBA :: SONE 150° : 139.50 See 150 1499.19 .599.a WORTH CIGO FOR ONLY C25 WITH THESE CANCORDERSO BOT DOWN THE O MONTHS LATERALL FIGH COMET CHECKE THOM SOME MC Garage Contracts 3×650 (449 s) GOODMANS 77 HOME CINERA IVS Sect 120 :479.9 CONTROL SERVICE LAST

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### Tories to expand workfare into job blackspots

BARRIE CLEMENT . Labour Editor

The Government is expected to announce a large expansion of a "workfare"-style scheme next week in which the long-term unemployed must undertake community work or suffer a reduction in state benefit.

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, is planning to use the Conservative Party conference in Bournemouth to reveal the expansion of the Project Work pilot programmes from the present two schemes into 20 or 30 areas, many of them unemployment black-spots.

Mrs Shephard believes the current projects, in the Hull and Maidstone areas, have been successful in getting the longterm jobless off the register. Out of 4,000 people on the schemes. 181 have taken up employment advertised in Jobcentres.

many of the programme participants were claiming benefit believe an expansion of the scheme will go down well with Conservative activists at the conference, but will also prove popular with the electorate.

The scheme is aimed at restoring work disciplines" employed for two years or even more bogus.

more. The jobless on the programme are granted their benefit plus £10 of expenses.

A 13-week period of coun-selling and help with job hunting is followed by 13 weeks of work in the community. In both Hull and Maidstone the unemployed have been set to work in old people's homes and on charity projects. Failure to turn up can result in a 20-10 per cent reduction in benefit.

Some critics of the approach believe that the unemployed, most of whom have paid tax is the past, are entitled to bender fit without mandatory work schemes. Others attack the programme because it is regarded

Mrs Shephard believes that the programme has been suc-cessful, but that the Treasury will require more evidence before risking the cost of a nationwide

It is understood that Labour Tory sources also believe that is planning a programme for the johless which would also involve a "stick-and-carrot" approach. while undertaking work in the Peter Hain, a Labour employ-black economy". Strategists ment spokesman, said: "Labour will provide jobs and high-quality training for a quarter of a million young people who are wasting away on the dole."

Project Work, he added, was just a cynical attempt to "boot-leg" people off the dole and among 18- to 50-year-olds un- make unemployment figures

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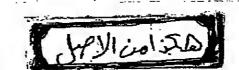
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# It ain't real till the fat lady sings in Italian

#### Marianne ) Macdonald on a row over the best language for performing the great operas

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and the second section is

Sir Peter Hall, the world-famous opera and film director, spectacularly rekindled the opera language debate vesterday by advocating English National Opera abandons its policy of singing only in English. His proposal – which from so

senior a figure of the opera community detonates the artistic equivalent of a grenade - was mediately rejected by Dennis Marks, ENO's general director. Sir Peter, who has directed

productions at Glyndebourne and Covent Garden, as well as at the Metropolitan Opera in New York and Bayreuth, makes the controversial proposal in ENO's own magazine.

Io an article he says that

much of the text in opera, even when suog in English is io-comprehensible. The widespread use of surtitles makes it irrelevant to offer an English translation.

The biggest single revolution in opera in the last couple of decades has been surtitles. They are eveo oow being used in



Surtifles are now widespread

in opera. The Royal Opera

House offers them above the

stage, while the Metropolitan

staged last season by ENO -

David Aldeo's Tristan and Isol-

de and Graham Vick's Fidelio.

they were extraordinary but I

missed many of the words - ex-

cept of course the spoken dia-

logue in Fidelio."

"Musically and dramatically

some houses for operas in Eng-lish - because we have finally admitted that however good the diction and however well the conductor keeps the orchestra down, much of the text is inaudible or incomprehensible," he writes.

"Wouldn't it now be truly revolutionary for ENO to throw away its English language only policy aod sing with the verbal sound which the composer had originally heard?" Sir Peter justifies his argu-

ment by citing two productions

Ventrar con voi pur ora.

Ma Il furto non m'accora,

polche vi ha preso stanza

ed i miel sogni usati

ed i bei signi mlei,

la dolce speranzal

Sing it like it is: Gwyneth Jones as the Wagnerian heroine Brûnnhilde, performed in the original German at the Royal Opera House

singers.

They are also likely to fall into has gone down the more expensive route of installing screens in the back of every

the comprehension gap whereby they get jokes in the

word directly.

But it is impossible to over-

come the problem that an

audience reading them will

be looking away from the

text before, or after, they take place on stage. But Mr Marks

Givadebourne (without surtitles) will know how commitinsisted there was no substitute ted he is to opera as drama," he for being able to follow the sung

"It is surprising therefore to read him advocating technology "Anyone who has seen Hall's that compels the audience to own revelatory productions of the Mozart Da Ponte operas at watch drama with its eyes fixed

several yards above the performers' faces.

"The result of this is what someone described as the drinking duck experience, with heads hopping up and down to grah the odd word here and the odd facial expression there."

Mr Marks said he had gone to Salome last year at Covent Garden. "At the moment of climax, when Salome is cradling the head of John the Baptist, I looked around. There was this girl singing and acting her heart out and almost everyone had their eyes fried five foot above

the stage."

He acknowledged, however, that some singers poorly pro-jected the text and that the Coliscum's own acoustics were patchy.

"The conservatoires don't train singers to project their voices any more," he added. "And there is not one conservatoire in this country which has a course to teach people to sing in English."

Two years ago ENO rejected a proposal to install surtitles, following the offer by a patron to sponsor them.

#### Won or lost in translation

ITALIAN: La Boheme by Puccini Rodolfo:

Your roguish eyes have robbed me, of all my dreams bereft me, dreams so fair yet so fleeting fancies that are no more -

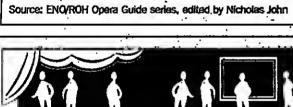
and yet I don't regret them. For now rosy morning is breaking and golden love awaking!

GERMAN: Tristan and Isolde by Wagner

Tristan & Isolde: O eternal night. Blessed night. Holy noble Night of love! When you enfold us, When we are blessed. How could we be wakened

From you without dismay?

O ew'ge Nacht! Süsse Nacht! Hehr erhab'ne, Liebes-nacht! Wen du umfangen, Wem du gelacht, wie - war ohne Bangen aus dir er ie erwacht?



most political animals, in theatre has stolen yet another imaginative march with his latest initiative. The head of The Theatre Royal, Stratford East is extending the £2 concessionary tickets (already the lowest in the country) beyond the unemployed, OAPs, students etc to low-paid workers. He says it follows the announcement of a fourth year of pay freeze for public service workers. "Many now can't afford the leisure activities that they have contributed to through

t is not just this newspaper that celebrates its 10th anniversary next week. Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber will be presiding over a gala perfor-mance of The Phantom Of The Opera on Wednesday as it clocks up its first decade, in which it has played to full houses every single night. I hear Sir Andrew might over-come his shyness for this cocasion and appear on stage. My money is on him tinkling the ivories after the curtain call. But you never know. Keep your eyes peeled as the Phantom nps off his mask.

an Hislop, the waspish editor of Private Eye, has been asked by the National Gallery to select his favourite picture from its collection and write about it in its bulletin. He chooses Hogarth's The Mar-riage Contract. What could have tickled Hislop's artistic



lan Histop: Satire as art

fancy here? Well, he replies: The only offspring of the union will be a boy with rickets. This is after the groom has caught VD from a child prostitute and then been stabbed when catching his wife in flagrante with the lawyer. The lawyer is executed and she poisons herself, but all this fun is yet to come ... Satire really was art in those days."

lane Lapotaire, just cast as Catherine of Aragon in the RSC's forthcoming production of Henry VIII, presents her own one woman show "Shakespeare As I Knew Her" at the New Vic Theatre in Bristol for two weeks from 5 November. Ms Lapotaire says she will start the show, a career retrospective, with a speech from Romeo and Juliet. "It will be the first time," she adds, "that Juliet will have been played by someone on hormone replacement therapy."

DAVID LISTER



Why the Prince of Wales is embarking on another divorce. Page 8.

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## Prince Charles and aide agree to part

The Prince of Wales's private secretary. Commander Richard Aylard is to leave his service early next year by "mutual de-

The Prince's press secretary, Sandy Henney, said yesterday that the departure was being confirmed after a newspaper report "to avoid any further unhelpful and ioaccurate speculation on the matter".

"We decided to confirm this

mutual decision by the Prince of Wales and Commander Aylard, who has been with the Prince for 11 years," a statement

It was issued after the Sun told the Press Association it would reveal Cdr Aylard's departure today.

The newspaper said: The Prince told Cdr Aylard, his right-hand man and best friend, during an emotional meeting at Lockmore, near Inverness, this morning."
It added that Cdr Aylard

shouldered much of the hlame for the controversial interview with David Dimbleby in which the Prince admitted adultery.

Stuart Higgins, the paper's

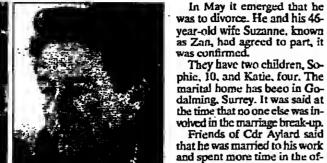


surprise. There has been growing friction between the two meo. There were disagreements over the future strategy and the profile of Camilla Park-

The Prince's office denied that Cdr Aylard had been

"He took over as private secretary in 1991." Ms Henney said, "His initial contract as private secretary was for five years. "He has said privately that he

would leave at some stage when the time was right. There is no editor said: The parting of the other reason for the depar-ways is not altogether a ture. Both the Prince and



was confirmed.

fice than at home.

They have two children, So-

phic, 10, and Katie, four. The

marital home has been in Go-

that he was married to his work

Most weekday nights were

Unlike many royal aides, he

said to be speot away from his family at an apartment in Wren

House at Kensington Palace.

went to grammar school and a

His advice to the Prince to co-

operate with the Dimbleby

hiography and television docu-

mentary, which led to the ad-

prime-time television, was said

to have put him at odds with

Since then the long-term re-

old guard" courtiers.

red-brick university rather than

public school and Oxbridge.

Friends: The Prince is losing Commander Richard Aylard

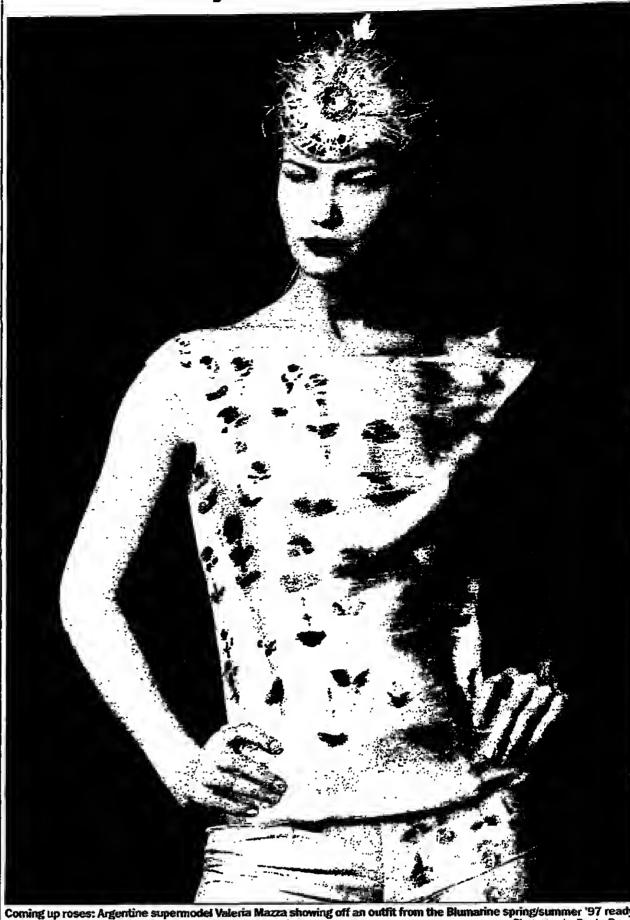
Richard feel the time is right for a change. We hope to announce a successor soon.

Cdr Aylard has been seen as a mainstay of support for the Prince during his separation and

The former Royal Navy officer joined Buckingham Palace as equerry to the Princess of mission of adultery on Wales 11 years ago, moving later to become an assistant private secretary to the Prince hefore promotion to become his

lationship between the beir to the throne and Camilla Parker He is thought to have been taking stock of his future in re-Bowles has attracted increasing

### At the ready for seasons in the sun



Coming up roses: Argentine supermodel Valeria Mazza showing off an outfit from the Blumarine spring/summer '97 readyto-wear collection at the Milan Fashlon Show yesterday Photograph: Paolo Cocco

### BSE cattle cull backlog creates 'fresh emergency'

JAMES CUSICK

The Government confirmed yesterday that the backlog of cattle waiting to be culled in the programme to eradicate BSE from the British herd is twice as large as previously estimated. The Public Services minister. Roger Freeman, said the size of the backlog, 400,000, was now regarded as a "fresh emergency".

Since the parliamentary an-nouncement in March of the potential biochemical link between BSE and the human equivalent. Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the Government has introduced measures to try and remove BSE from the foodchain. This included a cull of all cat-

slaughter programme has created a bottle neck in processing culled cattle waiting to go

through reodering plants. 600,000 cattle had been culled ing frozeo and stored while

to reach the 30-month cut-off period, the hacklog is increasing. Earlier this week Mr Freeman annouoced plans to increase the cold store capacity by bringing in up to 1,000 specialist lorry containers and the use of refrigerated ships. Yesterday Mr Freeman ad-

Mr Freeman said that sioce May. The large oumbers have meaot many carcasses beter. So we need to double the slaughter rate," he told the Towaiting to be rendered. As the British herd continues

crisis point in some regions. The worst affected areas are the South West and the West Midlands. "We can't have animal welfare problems and we can't have farmers going out of husiness because they cannot afford to keep their cattle over the win-

day programme on BBC Radio. About 33,000 cattle are being culled each week. Despite the backlog, the inability of the rendering plants to cope, and the shortage of cold store space. Mr Freeman said the cull rate was being increased to 55,000 per weck. He added: "Some priority will have to be

tle over 30 months old. The mitted that the hacklog was at giveo not only to particular cases where there are animal welfare problems, but where farmers have been waiting some considerable time.

A further selective cull was agreed by the Government at the European Union summit in Floreoce in June. This was designed to slaughter beasts from herds considered more at risk from BSE. There are now question marks over whether this additional cull will go ahead.

It is understood that the Government has undertaken trials on the mix of cattle parts which are frozen and which go direct to renderers. Until now whole carcasses have been



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# Grim Reaper cuts swathe through Russia

#### Helen Womack on a demographic disaster in the making

striking images of Soviet propaganda used to be the figure of the "hero mother", her broad bosom bedecked with medals for each of the ten or more children she had borne the Motherland. Even in the days when the Communist state provided relatively generous child allowances, the image was ridicu-lous, for there were few women outside Central Asia prepared to have large families. In today's Russia, il seems like a joke in bad taste.

Official statistics published this week show that Russia is suffering a catastrophic demographic imbalance, and is los-ing its population faster than any other industrial country not hit by war. In the first seven months of 1996 alone, Russia - still the biggest country in the world - saw its population drop by 300,000, enough people to fill three cities the size of York.

According to the figures is-sued by the State Statistical Comminee, there are now 147.7 million Russians. Still a lot, you might think. But experts are worried. Sergei Zakharov of Moscow's Centre for Human Demography and Ecology said: You're talking about a major decline in the workforce and a decline in the number of people to take care of and support the elderly ... The potential consequences are enormous."

the committee did not go into tors include a deadly environ- from former-Communist counany explanations for the latest fall in the Russian population. But the reason is, of course, a low birth rate - lower even than in Westero Europe where replacement tevels have ceased to be achieved - combined with a high death rate. Figures just published for Moscow show there were 34,356 births in the city from January to July compared with 66,586 deaths, and the picture is more or less the same nationwide.

ment in many areas of the country; a health system that all but collapsed with the drastic drop in state funding, poverty and stress brought on by Rus-sia's wild transition to the free market; the war in Chechnya; a fatty diet; smoking and alcohol abuse on a massive scale.

Men, especially, are dying before their time. By current Russian standards, President Boris Yeltsin, preparing himself for a heart bypass operation, has

'Nowhere, where there isn't war or flood, would you have a birthrate half the death rate. Except Russia'

"There's nothing like it anywhere," said Alexander Gasparishvili of the Moscow State University Centre for Sociological Research. Professor Murray Feshhach, an expert on Russian demographics from Georgetown University, compared the situation to a natural catastrophe. "Nowhere in the peacetime world," he said, "nowhere where there isn't an earthquake, a flood or some other disaster, would you have a situation where the hirth rate is half the death rate."

Why is the Grim Reaper cutquences are enormous. ting such a swathe through Giving its bleak statistics. post-Communist Russia? Fac-

done well to reach the age of 65. Life expectancy for the average Russian male, which was 65.5 in 1991, the year the Soviet Union disintegrated, is now 58, lower than in many parts of the Third World. And the future for Russian men is not rosy.

A new assessment of the state of the world's health, sponsored by the World Health Organisation and the World Bank, concluded earlier this month that people all over the world would be healthier in the next 25 years, with one exception - men in the former Soviet bloc. This was because, while infection would decline, people

tries would be vulnerable to "injuries and non-communicable diseases that are the hallmark of an escape from extreme poverty and ignorance". The report meant, among other things, smoking and suicide.

In view of all this, it is not surprising that Russian couples, who are starting to marry later and divorce more readily, are reluctant to bring children into the world. Mr Gasparishvili said: "People are uncertain about tomorrow ... People live badly in Somalia, too, but they don't stop having babies. Education seems to contribute to the despair and hopelessness here."

The average salary is 850,000 roubles (£110) a month, pitifully

little for a large family.

Natalia Sokolova earns just over the average – hut she has five children to feed. A former dissident, she stands on street corners selling pirated transla-tions of popular Western au-thors. Her children supplement the family income by skipping school and selling newspapers to motorists in traffic jams.

In Soviet times Natalia, with her five children, would not have qualified for the allowances of "hero mother", who had to have a brood of at least 10 to receive state help. But in the new capitalist Russia, where the state cannot yet collect taxes, let alone offer welfare, she is at



Dying breed: An uld lady in Moscow, where a long life is increasingly unlikely

Photograph: Alexandra Avakian/Katz

### Prostitutes 'are migrant workers'

Budapest (Renter) - Prosti- solutely no rights to even be livtutes plying a lucrative crossborder sex trade in economically-depressed eastern Europe should be treated as migrant workers, speakers at a conference in Hungary said yesterday.

Prostitutes are ... migrant workers," snid Nicoleta Druta, an official dealing with gender issues for the Romanian office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bucharest. "Not all prostitutes are forced into prostitution by pimps. They are forced by their economic situation ... to work abroad as prostitutes ...

"We cannot call them prostitutes any longer. We have to call them sex workers to change the way they are treated by the 15,000 [foreigners]," be said. civil authorities." Ms Druta in women sponsored by the In- trayed as "the Bangkok of ligration (IOM).

Frank Laczko, Budapest representative of the Switzerland-

ing in those countries, let alone be prostitutes," he said.

The thrust of policy is mainly to protect the community against the prostitution industry," Mr Laczko said on the opening day of the two-day conference. "It offers relatively little protection for the local prostitutes, and the issue of protection for migrant prostitutes is completely ignored."

Lieutenant Colonel Akos Bo-

rai of the Hungarian national police said a third of prostitutes working in clubs, massage parlours and other indoor venoes in Budapest are foreigners, mainly from countries east of Hongary. "There could be He added that he thought Bn-

told a conference on trafficking dapest had been unfairly porternational Organisation for eastero Europe" for child sex only "two or three such cases.

Lenke Feber, a lawyer from based IOM, said the sex the Hungarian Academy of Sciindustry had changed in Hun- ences, said the collapse of Comgary and westero Europe. "It is munism had ended the system increasingly dominated by mi- of full employment and forced grant prostitutes who have ah- many women into prostitution.





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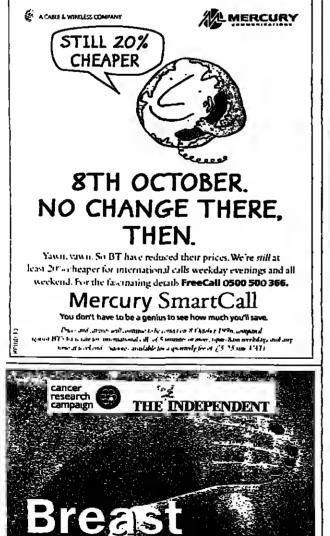
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gight-page special report, produced in association with the Cancer Research Campaign, which will

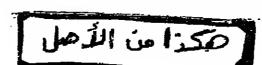
describe the risk factors, symptoms and treatments

of breast cancer to help maximise

the chances of survival.

lay's new look Section 2 there will be an





## Mozambique swaps war for a new slavery

Maputo — "I've come to dance ( for the Kafirs," revealed the skinny-hipped stripper on the short flight from Johannesburg to Maputo, her first trip out of South Africa,

Convinced that Maputo was a South African-style, tribal homeland, she gasped at the Mozambican capital's high-rise huildings and the miles and miles of deserted golden beaches to the north and south.

Looking forward to the "Kafir" audience - less crude than the fat Boers she danced for back home - she was in for another surprise. In Manuto these days, and particularly on a holiday weekend, white South Africans are just as likely as

Mozamhicans to be ogling.
Before Mozamhique's devastating 16-year civil war, Lourenco Marques, as Maputo was known, was where South Africans came to escape the corset-tight morality of home and experience racially-mixed thrills. Now the war is over, or-/ dinary South Africans are returning. They are coming not ( just to play, but to set up shop. Living next door to Africa's economic giant is a mixed hless-ing for Mozambique, one of the

one left bankrupt by war. The old South Africa, whose policy of destablising its neighhours included backing Mozámbique's Renamo rehels. regularly mounted military raids across the border.

world's poorest countries and

In Maputo, the post-

Having rich South Africa as a neighbour is a mixed blessing, writes Mary Braid

sion is expedited oot by tanks but by Land Rover Discovery four-wheel drives.

As the city takes its first faltering steps on the road to recovery, it is the Land Rover owners who are opening restaurants and starting businesses. The Polana hotel, recently re-



furbished, is the jewel in the investors' crown. At weekends it is stuffed with South African tourists and on weekdays it operates like a luxury base camp for South African investors.

Some welcome their rich neighbour. At the Costa do Sol restaurant, on the coast, 200 Polana guests are being unloaded. It creates a peculiarly Mozambican tourist scene; the white South African army marching towards white-clothed tables, watched by poor

beach. Nearby is a local bride, all white satin and tiara, swigging Fanta from a can during a break from seaside wedding pictures.

South African visitors bave already paid for the Costa do Sol's first refurbishment in years, delighting its owner. But some mutter darkly about colonisation. They complain that the majority of South Africans come up for the weekend in their 4x4s, laden with provisions. "They buy nothing from us and use us like a playground," said one local man. They destroy the sands with their vehicles and shoo locals off the beach." While much is made of

Mozambique's potential to develop into one of the world's remier eco-tourist locations, further up the coast South African entrepreneurs are reportedly taking advantage of the post-war administrative vacuum and setting up illegal tourist en-terprises. "Few politicians will say it in public but South Africa is going to cat us up."

Mozambican warned.

This resentment may increase. For this is just a vanguard. The new \$6 trillion Maputo Corridor Development, in which South Africa and Mozambique are partners, aims to boost trade between the two countries by improving road, rail apartheid South African inva- Mozambicans who live on the and communications links be-



Rich man's playground: South African tourists and business people are flocking back to a Mozambique bankrupted by war

tween Jobannesburg and Maputo and breathing life into the moribund Maputo port, which operates at a tenth of its pre-war capacity. In the next three years, the aim is to increase traffie from 25,000 to 100,000 containers, offering South Africa, as well as Swaziland and Zim-

babwe, as an alternative to the congested port of Durban.

Economie enslavement to a stronger neighbour is a legitimate fear. But South Africa has many reasons to help Mozambique. A more prosperous Mozambique may stem the flood of illegal immigrants. The The previous South Africao

ANC is also grateful for its sup-regime may have helped devport during the apartheid years. President Nelson Mandela is even believed to have lobbied caught up in the romance of refor Mozambique to join the

Commonwealth. Some investors want to do more than make a quick buck.

astate the country, but many young South Africans are

building it. Fourism could aid Mozambique's recovery but until the infrastructure improves, further economic expansion is impos-

sible. Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano recently complained that South Africa is making inroads into oeighbours' markets without opening up its own. But Mozambique, the poorest and weakest kid oo the block, is in no position to

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# Europe cool on Africa taskforce

JOHN FOLLAIN

Paris — Senior US officials have visited Europeao capitals including Paris and London to rally support for plaus to set up an all-Africa crisis force, but they met a lukewarm response. officials said yesterday.

Freoch and EU officials said a 12-person delegation, including a representative of Washtogton's National Security ident Jacques Chirac last month various ideas being debated but EU powers judged the plan The recent American ideas will to be too vague.

The US embassy said Mr Chirac's African affairs adviser, Michel Dupuch, had received an inter-agency American delegation on 17 September, which also toured London and Brussels among other European capitals. Both sides (the US and France) agreed it would be useful to refine our thinking further and to stay in touch," an

reporters ahead of Secretary of State Warren Christopher's first trip to sub-Saharan Africa next week, said on Thursday be hoped the force could be put in place fairly quickly. In the event of a crisis on the continent, its role would be to establish safe havens for civilians rather than engage in fighting or separate warring factions.

A French Foreign Ministry spokesman, Jacques Rummel hardt, reacting cautiously, said contribute to these discussions and should be studied very closely". He was referring to plans being studied by the UN, the Organisation of African Unity, the French and British governments, and the Western

European Union (WEU). "The Americans did not come here to Europe, and then go on to Africa, with fully worked out proposals. As the emhassy spokeswoman said.

US Assistant Secretary of State, George Moose, hriefing European official.

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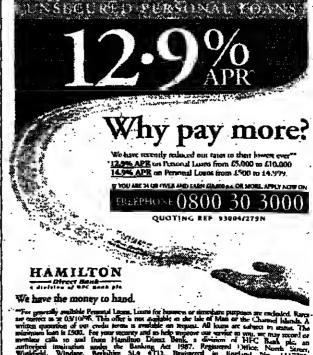
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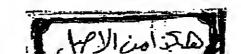
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### international



# Paradise lost as prince plans new Marbella

Madrid — Prince Alfonso de Hoheninbe, the playboy and property magnate who reinvented Marbella as a playground for the super-rich, is on the point of developing a luxury tourist complex by the Coto Donana, a nature paradise protected by the United Nations, after paying huge sums for a small Socialist council to change the rules.

The socialist mayor of the south-western town of Sanhucar de Barrameda, Agustin Cuevas, said last week that his council had accepted up to 80m pesetas (£400,000) from the prince's property company to revise local planning regulations. "We haven't received messages from any court that this is illegal, and

Elizabeth Nash reports on a royal attempt to change the planning rules for the rich.

if it hadn't happened, the local people would have had to pay." The Austro-Spanish prince submitted plans in 1990 to build 1,200 luxury flats, two hotels, a tennis club, a golf course and a polo field on scenic uplands in the town, which is noted for its manzanilla sherry. He expected to obtain planning permission within a month, but fierce local opposition has blocked it for more than six years. "I was misled," he said recently. "In Marbella I can sort these problems out within 24 bours."

lems out within 24 bours."

By late 1991, the prince had bought nut most of the 70 smallholders who tended their manzanila wines on slopes overlooking the Guadalquivir estuary, nne of the most precious wetlands in Europe and breeding ground for more than 250 species of migrating birds.

While awaiting permission,

While awaiting permission, he ripped up the vines, leaving bleak and dusty scrubland that is now thick with thistles. Ms Lola Yllescas, spokeswoman for Andalucia's Ecologist and Pacifist Confederation (Cepa) says the proposed Sanlucar Golf and Country Club will harm both the national park and farmers by hastening the decline in the region's water table.

In August 1991, Mayor Cuevas, believing the project

would bring jobs and prosperi-ty to the region, allowed the prince's company, Tenfa, to pay for the revision of local building regulations, reclassifying his farmland site as building land. Ms Yllescas claims this "smister deal" amounted to bribery. But the site lies within the buffer around the Donana national park, and the Andalucian regional government has the last word. The park itself is administered by Madrid. Mr Cuevas is pressing the conservative re-Sanlucar from the protective restrictions of the buffer zone. But such a proposal, put to the An-dalucian cabinet last week, was unexpectedly withdrawn. "I think the regional authority was afraid of the scandal that would blow up if they tampered

national park," said Juan Clavero, a local binlogist and environmental campaigner.

A week before, conservationists received unexpected backing from the conservative environment minister, Isabel Tocino, who said she "viewed

with regulations affecting the

with concern anything that diminished the area protecting the Donana national park". But Mr Cuevas insists the prince will soon be granted the permission be sauts

The pretty fishing village of Marbella became popular in the 1950s and 60s. Rich Americans, minor European royals, aristocrats and film stars fluttered round Prince Hohenlinhe's hotel, the Marbella Club, which one former habitude. Veronica Jay, recalls as "a jolly place". A slightly faster crowd of "beautiful people" preferred Torremolinos, along the coast. But by the late 70s and 80s, Torremnlinos was stifled by package tours, and rich Arabs began moving into Marbella, including the Syrian millionaire arms dealer Monzer Al Kasser. At this point, sniffs Ms Jay: "People with class moved west along."

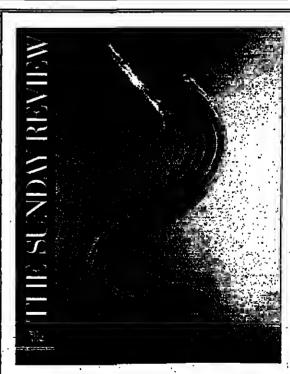
the coast to Sotogrande".

Personifying today's flamboyantly vulgar Marbella — which must contain the densest concentration of powder-blue suede fringed cowboy boots in Europe—is the city's right-wing mayor, Jesus Gil y Gil. Mr Gil, once imprisoned, then pardoned by the former dictator Franco, for building an apartment block that collapsed and killed more than 50 people, now

enjoys enormous local support.
Mr Gil has welcomed the latest wave of rich settlers – the
Russian mafia – whose taste and
wealth has swiftly made its
mark upon Marbella. To escape
these excesses, the prince seeks
to recreate the Costa's erstwile
exclusiveness in the unspoilt terrain around Sanlucar, and make
another fortune.

But the difference between then and now, says Miss Jay, is that "in those days, nice people had masses of money. Nowadays it's all funny money."





The joy of fish... Michael Bateman's threepart guide to the new wave of piscine cuisine celebrates the best possible taste

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### Chinese pervert Tibet's spiritual power

Tibet is tainted by an alien tide, reports **Mike Dempsey**. But now they feel its unearthly pull

old Lhasa, it is easy to spot the moving around the 1,500-yearold temple anti-clockwise. against the tide of Buddhist

worshippers. rection of the Hindu swastika and turning it into a Nazi symbol. For most Tibetans, it is another painful example of how the Chinese are upsetting the harmonious balance of Lhasa, where over the centuries temples and palaces were built in this stony, two-mile high Hi-malayan valley on the advice of geomancers, Buddbist saints

Under the guise of economhe progress, China is assailing Lhasa's spiritual character. The Communists have turned Lhasa into a kind of Himalayan Bangkok: every street is full of bars and video arcades and hrothels with mini-skirted girls whose faces are rouged like spiteful dolls. It is as alien as another planet to the Tibetan nomad women, their long, plaited hair studded with hundreds of turquoise stones, who wander into Lhasa with their sword-

bearing Khampa hushands. Even the Potala, the forbidding hilltop palace where Tibet's god-kings, the Dalai Lamas, have ruled since the 17th century, has not escaped the tawdriness. A monolithic disco, "JJ's", now squats at the foot of the Potala palace, a jeering replica in hrown and white of the Dalai Lama's holy abode. What the Communists have done is a profanity," complained one Lhasa resident. The Chinese also sheared off the top of a sacred mountain. Chakpo Ri. core than 3,000 exquisite rock

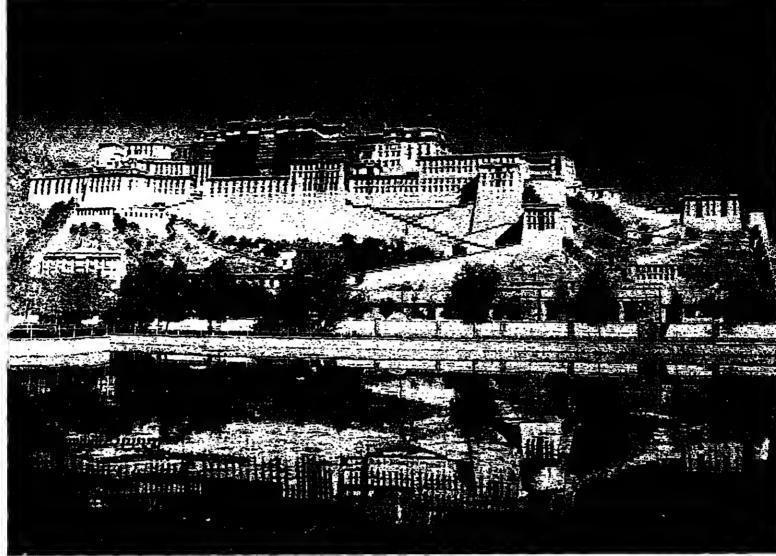
Among the multitude of carvings of Buddhas and saints, Tibetan pilgrims circling and erected a giant radio mast.

Jokhang temple in the centre of Stalls selling bleeding bunks of yak meat now ring the base Chinese. They alone among of Chakpo Ri, inside the sacred precinct. Prostitution is supposed to be banned by the Communists, but in Lhasa it is more brazen than in most other Chinese cities. "They don't For many Tibetans, this transgression is unnatural; it is like Adolf Hitler reversing the di-House of Pleasure', said one visitor. In some neighbourhoods of Lhasa, near the barracks where about 60,000 soldiers and security police are posted, every third storefront is a brothel, hastily nailed together plywood and curtains, with about 20 girls crowded inside. Most are from nearby Szechuan, The Tibetan prostitutes, far fewer in number, service their poor clients in the rubhisb-heaped alleys behind the Jokhang temple.

It seems as if every second shop is a hair salon for the prostitules. The time will come very soon, I'm afraid, when native Tibetans in Lhasa will be outnumbered by Chinese hairdressers, one Tihetan joked. Tibet has been flooded over the past few years by Chlnese settlers. In Lhasa, a city of 200,000 people, there is nearly one Chinese for every Tibetan, and more Chinese are arriving

There was the appearance of action against vice last May, when Chinese police arrested 111 prostitutes and pimps. But they have returned with reinforcements. Lhasa is far from the anti-corruption campaigns being waged in Peking; army officers are moving into private business, and the brothels are a lucrative sideline. So are banks and construction. Traditional Tibetan homes with painted window boxes are razed and replaced by drab metal and

blue-glassed buildings. The Chinese army seldom in-



Profane versus the sacred: Potala Palace is considered holy. Nearby a disco replica has opened

Photograph: Fong Sui Nang

tervenes directly. Instead, the high-ranking officers operate through a sbadowy élite of fixers who rose in Lhasa as the Communist Party, faced with conflicting signals from Peking. lost its ideological compass in Tibet. These fixers are mainly Chinese husinessmen, though there are a few Tibetans.

In exchange for bribes, the crooked military officers provide sought-after permits and immunity from punishment. One

Tibet activist in Europe said, "There's a very detailed shop-ping list of what sort of bribes and banquets you have to give to officials. Someone at the prefecture level wouldn't take anything less than a Rolex watch, for starters."

Most observers of Tibel doubt it is official Chinese policy to promote gambling and prostitution in order to undermine the exiled Dalai Lama's spiritual hold. But the Chinese

do not discourage it. "The Chinese are hoping this facade of the good life - the new electronic gadgets, the bars, the pretty girls, the pop songs blar-ing out of loud-hailers on the streets - will hide their deliberate attempt to erase Tibet's

religion, culture and language," Aside from politics, the Chinese and Tibetans are divided by other barriers. Tibetans are appalled, for example, to see the ninese fishing in Lhasa's jade-

blue river. Tibetans believe that every life-form has consciousness, so that it's better to kill a yak, which can feed an entire village, than to sacrifice a small creature like a fish which can

bardly satisfy a single person.
It also rankles Tibetans that the Chinese authorities have made their pilgrimages to the Potala Palace so dangerous. Cameras and microphones are hidden in every chamber of the vast palace, and spies, often in

monks' robes, eavesdrop on any Tibetans who seem too devout in their worship of the exiled Dalai Lama. But at the

Jokhang temple, not all Chinese go counter-clock wise. Some ily visitors to the temple have noticed that as Chinese communism seems to have gone adrift over the years, a few party officials, out of uniform, now visit the Jokhang to make Buddhist offerings and furtive-ly spin the prayer wheels.

### discuss Taliban victory

**OLEG SHCHEDROY** of Reuter

Almaty - Five Commonwealth of Independent States leaders. concerned about border recurity following the rise to power in Afghanistan of a radical Islamic militia, gathered in Kazakhstan yesterday to consider a

President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhslan, speaking ahead of the summit, urged other states not to interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. But he said he was prepared to submit a peace

The CIS leaders, meeting at the initiative of Russian Presiconcerned about security along the southern borders of the for-mer Soviet Central Asian states which the Kremlin sees as its strategic underbelly.

"Unfortunately the interests of many great states are focused there [in Afghanistan]," Mr Nazarbayev said. "Now what is important is not to meddle in the internal affairs."

But Mr Nazarbayev said only his country was in a position to offer a proper peace proposal for Afghanistan.

I think Kazakhstan is well-

positioned to do this as Russia and some other states are not correctly perceived here." he said in a reference to Moscow's intervention in Afghanistan in

The Taliban militia, a hardline Islamic group, seized the Afghan capital Kabul last week and their advance north towards CIS borders, some of which are guarded with Russian belp, bas worried Moscow and some other regional states.

The presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan attended the summit along with the Russian Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin.

### significant shorts

#### generals in reshuffle

The Russian President. Boris An Iranian cleric bas Yeltsin, has sucked several generals, including commanders of the paratroop and space forces, the Defence

Ministry said yesterday. A ministry spokesman said Mr Yeltsin's decrees had been signed on Wednesday and Thursday, and that least three senior generals had been removed, including a first deputy head of the gen-eral staff. Media reports said he sackings were part of a reshuffle conducted by Defence Minister Igor Rodioney aimed at consulidating his power among the top ranks. Reuter - Moscow

### Burma shrugs A legal net tightened around former Indian prime minis-

off US ban A senior Burmese official shrugged off a United States

travel ban on Burmese leaders, saying it would have little effect as few government officials travelled to the US. A senior official said: "After all, relations are already pretty cool. So if [the US] don't want to deal with us, then we will deal with others

who want to do so.7 President Bill Clinton on Thursday signed a proclamation hanning Burma's military rulers and their families from entering the US as a response to repression of the democracy movement headate Aung San Suu Kyi. Reuter - Rangoon

#### • Anti-abortion boost

The ailing Pope John Paul II received a boost with the news that the upper house of court to face criminal parliament in his native Poland had blocked a move to liberalise the country's strict anti-abortion law.

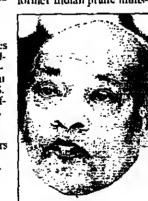
The Pope is one of the hercest critics of the proposed liberalisation, passed with a large majority in the lower house in July. In Poland, abortions are allowed only if pregnancy threatens life or health, resulis from rape or incest, or when the foetus is irreparably damaged. But the Bill will now be returned to the Adrian Bridge - Budapest

#### Yeltsin sacks Taliban 'gives Islam a bad name'

accused Afghanistan's radical Islamic Taliban movement of giving Islam a bad name. They stop girls from attending school, stop

women from working ... in the name of Islam," Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati told worshippers in Tehran. Shia Iran supported the ousted government of Burhanuddin Rabbani and is hostile to the Sunni Taliban, who they say are manipulated by Pakistan and the US. Reuter - Tehran

#### Net tightens around Rao



Rao: One step closer to appearing in court

ed by the Nobel Peace laure- ter PV Narasimha Rao when a judge issued a warrant for his arrest in a forgery case. The Delhi High Court sus-

pended the warrant until next week. But the lower court judge's order brought the former Congress party leader a step closer to becoming the first former prime minister to appear in charges, on 14 October. Reuter -New Delhi

#### Divorce of a princess

Princess Stephanie of Monaco obtained a divorce from husband Daniel Ducruet. Stephanie, 31, filed for the divorce on 16 September, after Italian magazines carried explicit photos of her husband in a swimming-pool lower house, where it is once tryst with the reigning Miss again likely to be approved. Nude Belgium, Fila Houteman. AP - Paris

#### Palestinian protests halted for talks

PATRICK COCKBURN

In the run up to the Israeli-Palestinian talks tomorrow Palestinian police have stopped all demonstrations in the West Bank and Gaza. In the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem yesterday, where last Friday three peope were killed and 60 wounded, Muslim clergy stapped all protests. Unlike last week the 3,000 police and border guards present did not starm Temple Mount. Binyamin Netanyabu, the

Israeli Prime Minister, has made conciliatory statements to Palestinians. Speaking on 1sraeli television's Arabic service he said: "I ask you, don't go into mourning. Don't lose hope." At the same time there is little sign that Israel will offer concessi to the Palestinians in the talks at the Erez checkpoint outside Gaza, which may be attended by Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State.

Israel wants further security neasures in the autonomous Palestinian enclaves which would diminish the authority of the 40,000 Palestinian police, some of whom fought the Israeli army last week. Israel wants buffer zones separating Israeli and Palestinian forces and Palesan police to be armed only with pistols in sensitive areas. Ironically in Hebron, Pales-

tinian security police, out of uniform but carrying small arms, were allowed yesterday by Israel in minele with the crowds to urge calm during a break in the curfew. Although the Israeli government blames the police for tast week's violence, in which a total of 15 Israelis and 58 Palestinians were killed, it depends on those police to prevent the stone throwing from starting again.

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Israel will reportedly demand that there be no Palestinian police on the bills overlooking an enclave of 400 Israeli settlers in Hebron and that those in proximity to the settlers not carry semi-automatic weapons. In return Israel will ease the isolation of West Bank villages. Earlier, Hamas had called for

"total confrontations" with Israeli forces and settlers after Friday prayers throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The lack of response shows that the Islamie militant movement has been seriously weakened by months of suppression. Letters, page 15



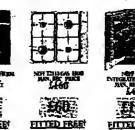


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### international

**Dublin summit:** Low-key meeting hopes to boost progress on preparing 'Maastricht II'

### Leaders set to scale down EU reforms

SARAH HELM Brussels

Europe's leaders meet in Duhlin loday in the latest of a series of attempts to breathe life into flagging negotiations aimed at re-writing the Maastricht

treaty.
The leaders are expected to reaffirm their determination to produce a draft treaty on so-called "Maastricht II" reforms in time for the end of the Irish Presidency in December, However, it is widely expected that today's meeting will have markedly lower expectations about the scope of the treaty. Furthermore, there is likely

to be growing pressure in Dublin for many major decisions on the rehullding of Europe to be delayed until a "Maastricht III" conference, after the introduction of a single currency in 1999.

A low-key summit in Duhlin will please John Major, as the Prime Minister is anxious to avoid conflicts over Europe on the eve of the Conservative Party conference. Mr Major is expected to use the Duhlin platform to reassert his determination to call for a review of the powers of the European Court of Justice and changes in the common fisheries policy.

Although European Monetary Union is not on today's agenda. Mr Major is certain to be asked about recent Eurosceptic calls for Britain to rule out joining a single currency. Any signs in Dublin that other European leaders now wish to defer plans for far-reaching moves lowards greater political union will be welcomed also by decision-making in areas of

the Labour Party.
Under the initial reform timetable, agreement on rewriting the Maastricht treaty, within the current Inter-Governmental Conference (IGC), was to have been finalised in June next year. A Labour victory at the general election would give Mr Blair only a few weeks to decide whether to sign up to far-reaching decisions on deeper power-sharing.

Today's mini-summit was called by heads of government in June in order to boost progress in the IGC which was



Kohl: Resisted further IGC

laucched in March, and aims to prepare Europe for enlarge-ment to up to 27 members. The discussions were expected to produce agreement on far-reaching changes to Europe's institutions and decision-making. Among the subjects on the ageoda are pro-

home affairs and justice, as well as in foreign policy.

However, the negotiations have so far been hampered on several fronts. Political leaders have been wary of hurrying for fear of alienating public opinion which, in several member states, has displayed growing scepticism about the need for greater power-sharing in

And the task of re-writing treaties and re-building institutions in readiness for the accession of new members is proving monumental. Reaching agreement among the 15 on sensitive issues which involve further reduction in sovereignty is equally arduous.

At the same time, Germany and France, the prime movers in the integrationist drive, have been preoccupied with preparing Europe for monetary union, and both countries face elections in 1998. Paris has led calls in recent weeks for the IGC agenda to be limited, to ensure that agreement - even on a small scale - can be finalised in June next year, well ahead of the French parliamentary elections. The French then favour holding another, broader IGC at a

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, has resisted such a move, fearing that to defer the wider decisions would slow the momentum towards deeper political uoion. However, this



#### week Mr Kohl signalled that he too is now prepared to consid-er the idea of holding a further "Maastricht III" conference at posals for an increase in the use War games: Children playing in Sarajevo after Bosnia Herzegovina and Yugoslavia agreed full diplomatic links almost a year after the Dayton peace accords. The inaugural session of the newly elected three-man presidency and the House of Representatives takes place in the city today Photograph: Reuters ers for the European Parlia-Politicians and media fiddle while city is engulfed by

orgy of public works and millennial Vatican zeal All of a sudden. Rome is full of boles. In an uncharacteristic fit of reforming zeal, the city's telephone, gas, and electricity companies have come to the simultaneous conclusion that their underground pipes and cables are in preent need of renewal, and the city council has seen fit to let them all start digging at once. The result is not so much chaos - the normal state of things around here, af-

ter att – as beyond chaos. Piazza Venezia, the central hub of the while city, has two holes in the middle and others along the edges. Via Nazionale, the main thoroughfare leading un to the station, has one enormous hole snarting up a major traffic junction and a couple of other medium-sized ones. Viale Trastevere, one of the main arteries leading wouth from the Tiber, is already a lung succession of boles

And, as if the shemmigans of

not enough, traffic along the river has been hrought to a standstill hy an enormous hole being dag on one of the city's husiest hridges to lay

down a new tramline. Overall, there are so many holes that nobody has managed to make an accurate count of them, although rumonr has it that the council is working up towerds a grand total of 500. That means 500 extra traffic jams a day in a city already on the verge of an automotive breakdown. Not to mention 500 new things for the notoriously short-tempered Romans to luse their tempers

It is not a pretty sight. Usually, hig Italian cities undertake repair work of this kind during the summer holidays, ur else

conduct it piecemeal so that it is barely noticed. Even Naples, The good news is that the nsually the most anarchic metropolis in the land, is managing to build itself a new metro with minimal fuss above

But the Roman anthorities took the curious decision to start the work at the end of August, just when everyone - including, presumably, the workmen they intended to employ was coming back from a month at the beach. Nothing like forcing Romans to return to work. and then making It almost impossible for them to get to

their workplace, to create a re-

a small company

holes were due with commendehle efficiency, hringing the city to a standstill in a matter of hours. The bad news, though, is that the workers were tired after their initial heroic labours and most of the boles have stayed open, forlorn and exposed, long beyond their due closing date. "What we still want to know

is: where have all the workers gone?" asked the Rome daily IIMessageero for the umpteenth time this week. Ever since the holes appeared, the media and politicians have played a highly vicious, game of cat-and-

One day, the municipality will admit a few lapses and announce a new, Stakhanovite timetable for the workers to refill the holes to; the next day, the papers will gleefully provide updates on the pathetic rate of progress and report how almost nobody was at their posts when they were supposed to be.

Admittedly, the city council has a near-impossible task. ans are amone the least grateful recipients of civic munificence in the world, and would prohably complain if they were offered free pizza and

e daily beer allowance. What's more, this is a place where orders from above are routinely disregarded and pubenergy on the football pools than they do on the job, so getting the holes filled on

time was never going to be

Last Thursday, the city's commissioner of public works. Esterino Montino, issued a damning report in which be complained of woefully undermanned and ill-equipped building sites. Alongside the presidential palace, he said, one repair team was reluctantly fil. ling in a hole "with a mechanical spade no bigger than a

tahlespoon". The commissioner went to the city prefect, and the prefect told workers that if they didn't get their act together to meet the targets, working around the clock if necessary, they would be

New night-time work sched-

public works projects in preparation for the Vatican's milnnial Inbilce.

We're talking a new metro, 50 new churches, buildings, comrunity centres and tourist facilities. A Holy Year it will be, in more senses than one.

ules were announced, and new

deadlines fixed, including the

closure of a series of holes by

Coke that they'll do it," said the

head of the city consumer as-

sociation, Carlo Rienzi. And,

sure enough, they didn't.
Only a handful of workers

tayed np on Saturday night in

Piazza Venezia, while in the rest

of the city the holes remained

shudder about the next four

years, when it is supposed to be

launching a veritable orgy of

All of which makes the city

as deserted as ever.

"I wouldn't bet a bottle of

last weekend.

### Italy is offered words of comfort

ANDREW GUMBEL

To look at Jacques Chirac and Romano Prodi at their bilateral summit meeting in Naples yesterday, one could not have guessed at the slightest hint of disagreement between them. France and Italy, they said, both hoped to join the single Enropean currency on its launch date m January 1999. Both countries, they said, would do their numost to bring the lira

back into the European mone-tary system at soon as possible. Mr Prodi, the Italian Prime Mir Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, said they were in "per-iect agreement", while President Chirac shrugged off a row sparked earlier this week by his hostile remarks about Italy as "a ridiculous misunderstanding".

For a country that only three days ago was being dismissed as a second-class citizen of the new Europe and a oo-hoper on monetary union, Italy has finished the week in surprisingly upheat mood. With his gov-ernment preparing to slash a record 62.5 trillion lire off next year's budget in an all-out effort to bring the country's public finances into line with the Maastricht convergence criteria, Mr Prodi has now received the support not only of the French President but also of Michel Camdessus, head of the In-ternational Monetary Fund.

"Italy is making a major ef-fort to push through a budget which, if carried out in full, will make it possible to bring the budget deficit down to 3 per cent of GDP [gross domestic product] by the end of 1997 as stipulated by Maastricht," Mr

Camdessus said.
Such words of comfort came
as a relief to Mr Prodi at the
start of a month-long debate on the budget in the Italian par-liameot. An international thumbs-down would have de-

thumbs-down would have de-stroyed not only the credibility; of the austerity package, but also-the stability of his governmeot. But who is right, the Chirac of last Tuesday who said Italy would never make the single currency on time, or the Chirac of vesterday who praised Mr Prodi's "vigorous and coura-geous efforts" to rein in Italy's public finances?

"The prevailing attitude is to count nobody out and count nobody in, but to wait and see what happens," one European Union diplomat said, "Nobody wants to praise or rubbish this budget until they see what effect it has.

That would suggest that Mr Chirac's attack on Italy was a gaffe, pure and simple. On closer inspection, his hostility looks more visceral than the result of careful economic analysis, the fear that a competitively valued lira would take away

precious French export markets. There are perhaps two main lessons to be drawn from the week. The first is that the Italians can take oothing for granted, even if they are members of the G7. The second is that Eu- 🕏 rope is far from a unified entity, and the road to monetary union is likely to be fraught with the conflicting interests of member states. Italy will not just need a healthy economy to swap the lira for the euro, it will Andrew Gumbel its backstabbing neighbours.

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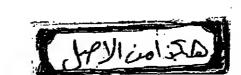


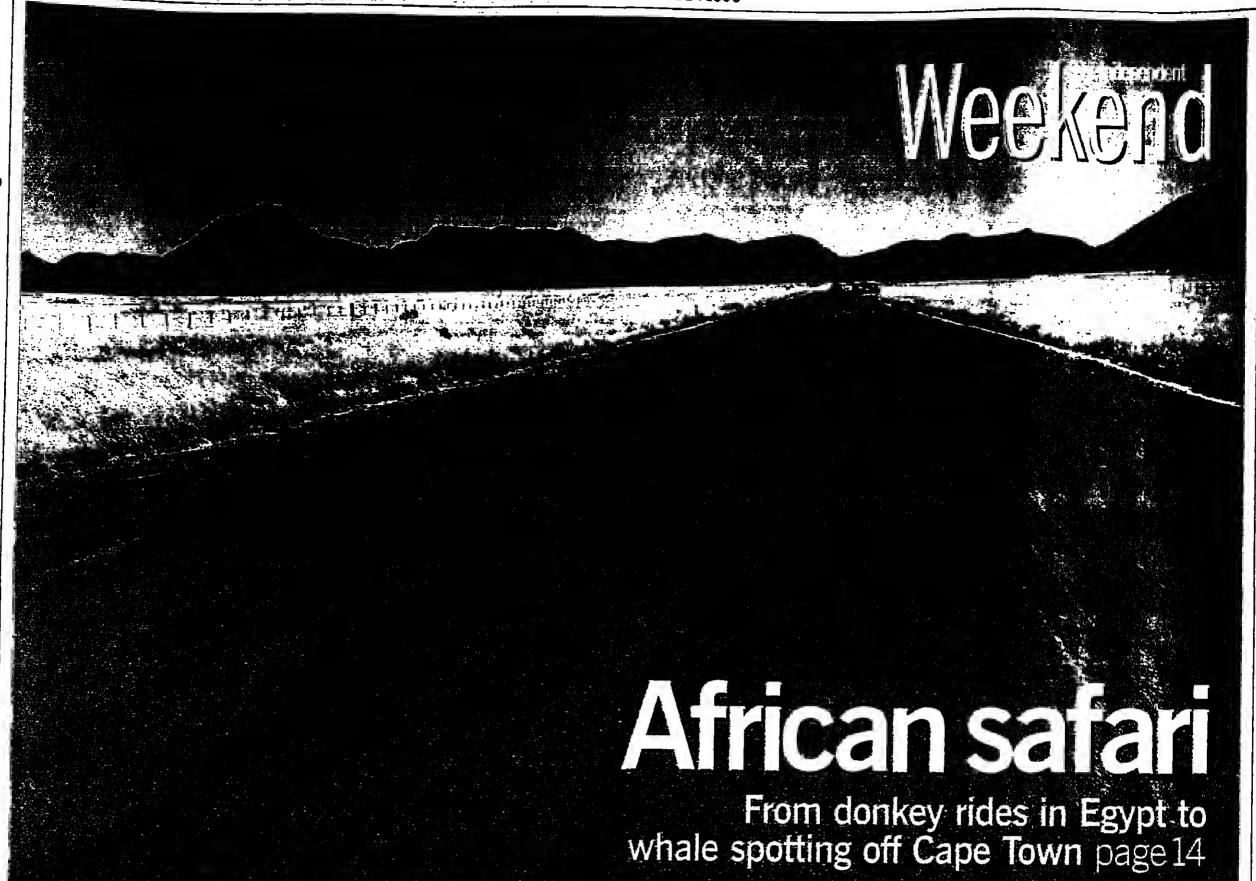
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#### Interview



3 The patient double life of Josef Skvorecky

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It takes a long time for the Czech emigré's novels to be translated. But it's worth the wait

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7 Margaret Drabble: a novelist who's out of ideas?

Her new book shows ambition but lacks inspiration, says Hugo Barnacle

### **Property**



A family totally at home on the river

A houseboat may sound like a bizarre home but more people are taking to the water

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19 The joys of naval gazing in Portsmouth

The 'Victory', Nelson's flagship, preserved in all its glory as a national icon

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### Don't dismiss the craziness of modern artists — they go where six-year-olds fear to tread

how we should read this remark - was it merely a paraphrase of Schoenberg's mation of a body, each with two indented anxiety, an attempt to describe the vertigo of a composer newly liberated from when they face the room in which these traditional harmonics? Or were we to read homunculi are arrayed is not the quality it as a self-evident statement of truth? Plenty of people would happily subscribe to the latter view, in particular those who think that the tidal ebb of aesthetic obedience in the current century has exposed a slimy expanse of junk-dotted mud. It is very easy to turn the remark from a reminder that the true artist is always disciplined (even if they invent a new discipline) into a philistine sneer at artists whose work is not underwritten by traditional methods - a different way of saying that the lunatics have taken over the asylum.

The logic of complete freedom leads to the madhouse," Simon Rattle was looking at Antony Gormley's Field. a startling and thought-provoking installation at the Hayward Gallery. The work wasn't easy to see from the context exactly crudely moulded into a rough approxiof each individual figure. You could say of them, calling up another commonplace aggression against modern art, that "my six-year-old could do that". Indeed, this judgement is incontrovertible - Gormley used ordinary people to help make his fig-ures, including children, whose smaller hands have produced infants for this wondrous population. But what exactly would you think if your six-year-old had done this - if every spare minute was bent to the creation of little figures, which were then neatly arranged in a bedroom to deranged (though, like many artists, be

#### THOMAS SUTCLIFFE



cover all horizontal surfaces? You would, surely, call a psychiatrist, even if your parental indulgence lasted beyond the 1,000 mark. Encountered anywhere but in an art gallery such behaviour - obsessive and fixated - would call for a clinical explanation, not a critical one.

This is not to argue that Gormley is

may like to think of himself as not quite cluttered bed-sit. Both those artists worked as sane as the next man) but it is to sug-with traditional media but the almost limgest that one of the features of the art of this century has been a readiness to see that psychosis might have things to tell us. And in the case of Field, the absence of reasonable limits delivers surprisingly rich reasonable imits delivers surprisingly from dividends. This piece isn't just marvellous to look at – it stirs in the viewer thoughts of megalomania, benevolence, dread and cruelty (judging from overheard conversations, I wasn't the only one who felt an impulse to run into the room and tram-

ple these tiny, beseeching figures).

And there are incontrovertibly great artists who bave gone even further in the pursuit of a single goal – both Mondrian and Giacometti might serve as examples of artistic compulsion that could easily look deranged if the inspection bad dif-ferent motives in mind – if the viewer was a psychiatric social worker and the paintings and sculptures were to be found in a

itless definition of what might now count as art bas greatly expanded the repertoire not figure as an art installation. Indeed, of derangement. It isn't very difficult to the reason why most galleries would probfind a contemporary artist to match almost ably refuse is that it would be a bit old hat. any pathological symptom. Some mentally ill people collect their own faeces—so did Pietro Manzoni, in numbered tin-cans which he then sold to collectors. Some people suffer from a condition called dysmorphophobia, addictively visiting plastic surgeons to alter their appearance - so does the artist Orlan, who records ber grisly transformations on videotape.

This raises an obvious problem of discrimination. Coming out of the Hayward, I passed a homeless man pushing a railway trolley stacked with an office chair and a section of timber-veneered partition wall. Given an articulate rationale about these objects - an interest in "the fragility of the From next week, this column will appear permanent", say, or an exploration of on Thursdays

is no reason why such an assemblage might Been there, done that.

Such facts are taken by conservatives as evidence for the general debasement of contemporary art. They aren't, but they do suggest that the viewer's duty of judgement begins rather earlier than h did in the 19th century, when the threshold question was not "Is this art at all?" but "Is it any good?" For my money, Orlan urgently needs to see a doctor, not another suggest but such cases shouldn't another surgeon, but such cases shouldn't blind us to the fact that for some fine artists, "the road to the madhouse" has turned out to be a fascinating excursion, not a hideous wrong-turning.

### INSIDE STORIES

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John Walsh on the Booker Prize; Jan Morris catches up with Jonathan Raban's new dispatch from the American badlands

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Houseplants that are good for you

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MONEY

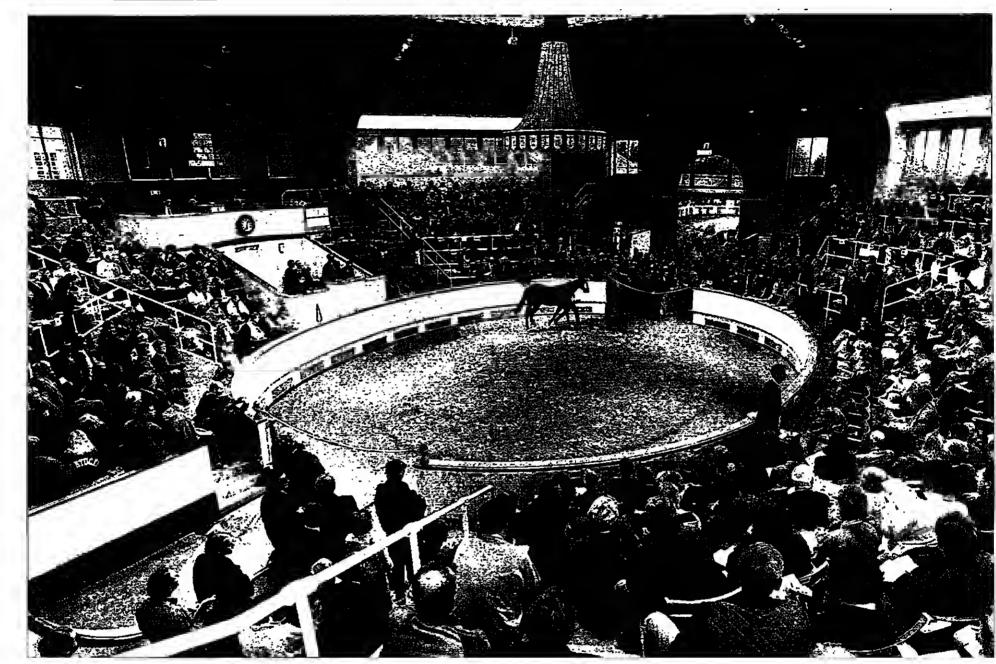
Norwich Union in £2bn shares bonanza; how to build your way out of negative equity

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**LISTINGS** 

Weekend events, Saturday and Sunday television and radio

cover photo: Robert Harding



# ilthy rich and on the hoot

wednesday Mr Wafie Said, the widely espected Syrian philanthropist and friend the stars, laid out a little loose change on a couple of new toys. That other people regard the price of a mansion in Wandsworth as loose change is sobering to con-template but, then, war has been pretty profitable ower the past decade and there's plenty of the old lucre to go around for those in the know. Mr Said's introductions of friends to friends may have led him to unsavoury places, but you don't get to be a major player in the racing world with-

out making sacrifices.

The setting for these particular sacrifices was Newmarket, spiritual home of all thoroughbreds, and the scene was Tattersalls' 1996 Houghton Yearling Sales. Bidding through one Tim Bulwer-Long, Said bought a couple of colts: a son of Nashwan out of Music and Dance and the product of a tryst between Sadlers Wells and the American mare Impatiente. The first was a

the product of a tryst between Sadiers Wells and the American mare Impatiente. The first was a snip at 400,000 guineas: the second a very reasonable 500,000. Guineas, of course, add up: 500,000 guineas in real money is £525,000. Whoops, better make another introduction. It's been a good year for Tattersalls. In just over three hours' hard selling on Tuesday evening £7.136,850 changed hands. This was an increase of £2,850,000 on the same night last year. Racing, like every other luxury occupation, has been hit hard by the recession, but those green shoots of recovery were twining themselves round everyone hard by the recession, but those green shoots of recovery were twining themselves round everyone in the husiness this week. Fifty-three per cent of this eash was accounted for by Wafic Said, Sheikh Mohammed. John Magnier and Michael Tabor. Dealer Demi O'Byrne, bidding on behalf of Tabor and Magnier, scruped up \$80,000 hard-camed guineas for a colt by Kingmambo. This staggering price was, in fact, only the equal 10th highest price ever achieved at the sales. Prices haven't gone into seven figures since 1988, when Classic Thoroughbreds handed over 2,400,000 guineas for a colt called Classic Music, brother of Sadlers Wells. The horse never raced, and died in 1993 Wells. The horse never raced, and died in 1993 after two seasons at stud. An excellent investment for anybody's money.

This orgy of gamhling on a scale that puts Monte Carlo to shame takes place in the immaculate Park Paddocks, a faultlessly mown and pampered complex of loose boxes and sale rings belonging to the bloodstock auctioneers. The carpark is an education in itself; polished metal, taken off the drivers hands and slotted into perfect rows by an army of

#### **SERENA MACKESY**



In another life

'A snip at 500,000 guineas.' At Tattersalls' 1996 Yearling Sales, the punters wage a war of nerves, the spectators gawp, the thoroughbreds are nervous. Let the orgy of gambling begin ... Photograph by Nick Turpin

see, not only do you never have to change gear by hand, you never have to learn to reverse at all: there will always be someone to do it for you. Walking there from the station, a bit shop-soiled after

ing there from the station, a bit shop-soiled after half an hour on a train full of screaming school-children, was good culture-shock training.

The first thing you notice about the crowd at the Houghton is that they're giving nothing away. This may be a scrious spectator sport —on Tuesday there were probably 200 gawpers for every big player involved—but everyone certainty the pulse of proinvolved - but everyone gets into the swing of pre-tending they're there pitted against each other in a war of nerves. People in headscarves assumed poker faces, muttered to each other out of the corners of their mouths. This was no mean feat: if there's one thing you don't associate with horsey people it's soft-spokenness. Generations of making yourself heard across the windy Downs have bred a certain foghorn quality into the equestrian classes, and keeping your voice down if you're one of them is about as easy as keeping your pinkies off a pension fund if your name's Bob Maxwell.

The next thing you notice is how clean everything is. The place gleams. Lawns are cropped to within an inch of their lives, a peculiar Romanesque pagoda thines with a whiteness worthy of a Daz doorstep challenge, tarmac is black, black, black. The several hundred boxes are Creosoted into uniformity. Even the taxes seem to have bad their formity. Even the trees seem to have bad their leaves stapled on for optimum coverage. The odd thing about this is that this is a place designed for horses, and horses, while being nice beasts with many excellent qualities such as nobility, loyalty, men in maroun bomber jackets. If you're rich, you speed and enormous teeth, are not renowned for

their cleanliness. There were 75 lots at the sale oo Tuesday, and, being highly strung babies, they were jolly nervous. And yet one quickly realised that there was absolutely no need to watch one's step. The place was swarming with men in green coats. They came in pairs. One carried a broom, the other a massive pooper-scooper. The moment some descendant of the Godolphin Arabian expressed its distress, they pounced on the results. This must

be one of the great showstoppers in the public bars of Newmarket. What do you do for a living, then? In the Chifney Restaurant, tea was in full swing. Beneath a huge oil of men in frock coats and toppers leaning on canes at the original Tattersall at Hyde Park Corner (the firm was established in 1766), people in Barbours and quitted waistcoats chowed through sponge cake and Mariboros. You could tell the buyers from their advisers at a glance. The members of the horse world wore jeans and V-necked sweaters and those wonderfully ancient tweed jackets only the British can get away with. Those whom they were there to advise were fully kitted out in suits and top-pocket kerchiefs. Their womenfolk were seriously manicured. My mobile

phone rang. The 30 people within earshot flung themselves on their handbags.

A group of Japanese went through the whole head-nodding routine. Earlier in the upper stables and I does not see them introduced by the stables of them introduced by the second of the secon leyard, I'd seen one of them inspecting a very sweet-looking chestnut filly. He had walked round her clockwise, then he walked widdershins. Then, standing as far as his arm would allow from the twitching mammal, he reached out and touched the very tippy-tips of his fingers to her neck. She

jumped. He jumped higher, and retreated to the safety of his group. Bloodstock is business like any-thing else these days. You don't have to actually

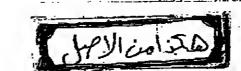
like horses to buy one. By the upper sale paddock, knots of potential buyers and faux-buyers watched the yearlings being walked out. There was something a bit pathetic about the thought of all these habies, who have lived their lives so far at home with the people who lived their lives so far at home with the people who bred them, plodding trustingly into pantechnicons to be bartered. I had a bonding session with Lot 28, a chestnut filly by the American stallion Lion Cavern out of a mare who, seriously folks, was called Bint Secreto. She had the kind, elever eye of a good eventer, and kept glancing at me as she went past. She sold later for 46.000 guineas. Beside me, four men in blazers discussed deals in West Country accepts. "She looks like she might

in West Country accents. "She looks like she might be the right sort," said one. "Yes," said another, "but you have to ask why he's selling her now. You have to question his faith in her as a two-year-old."

Inside the sale ring, the auctioneer was warming to his task, dosie-dohing his way through six-figure sums like the leader of a Line-dancing session. He scarcely paused to draw breath as he forced the deadpan bidders to ever more extravagant heights, and his colour rose with the prices as oxygen starvation set in. The auctioneers swapped over every few lots: presumably they then collapsed off-stage, gasping like well-hooked pike.
The main performer was surrounded by men in sober suits and Tattersalls ties who signalled to the bidders. I failed to identify a single one of toese. so minuscule were their movements. A board behind the auctioneers' heads gave the price in pounds, French francs, marks, US dollars and yen.

The arena was filled with a constant buzz of lowlevel chat as the horse world went about its business. And over the top of it all, the echo of auction patter: "A right good goer she is at 30,000," cried the auctioneer. "Forty thousand, It's not his value, but he's on the market, 1 sell him." "At 60,000," he fixed a reluctant bidder with a practised eye, "DON'T STOP NOW!" The crowd seemed sanguine about these sums: a hush only

seemed sangume about these sums: a hush only fell when the price rose above the 290,000 level. In less than half an hour, I watched £1,243,200 change bands. After that I had to go out and get some fresh air and a reality check. By the paddock door, a blazer shook hands with a suit. "You after anything in particular?" asked the suit. "Well," replied the blazer, "there doesn't seem to be that much to how. But I date say we'll do some dam. much to buy. But I dare say we'll-do some dam-



# The double-life of Josef Skvorecky

He has been living in exile since 1969, but the Czech novelist has never left the land of his youth in his writing. On the eve of the publication of his latest work, he tells Jasper Rees about the experiences that shaped the first great Afro-Czech-American novel

dodge books by authors with names you can't pronounce. A Slavonic thicket of consonants on the spine of a book, you naturally presume, advertises a novel of comparable impactedness. So, to clear the phonetic fog, Skvorecky reads as "Shkworetskee". After he left Prague at the gloomy dawn of 1969, the funeral of the suicidal protester Jan Palach just a day-old memory, its owner considered anglicision the name to Squoretsky. The friendlier spelling might have shifted a few more units, but would have been a terrible betrayal. He has come across a Dr Svorecky who also lives in Toronto, and there's a village outside Prague called Skyorec. But the forbidding surname will die with Josef Skvorecky.

The novels, needless to say, are not remotely impacted. Mostly inspired by his own tragicomic tussles with ridiculous Nazis and humpen Communists, they prowl through a past darkened by doctrine but brightened by blissful flirtations and carefree jazz. For the best account of how deceot folk tried to carry oo drinking, romancing, thinking, joking in poor old occupied mittel-Europe, Skvorecky's are the novels to come to. But they also look into the bitter-sweet business of exile, oot just the type of exile Czech novelists are always mournfully banging oo about, but the exile that cuts us all off from our own youth. It's all there in the Engineer of Human Souls, the masterpiece that uses a Conradian cut-and-paste narrative techcence in his war-torn home town, the anything about the contemporary Czech Soviet invasion of 1968, and blandly com- Republic, because I do not live there and fortable Canada. He says he's not one for so it would be a sort of tourist view of the browsing back through his own books, but country." when I ask him which of his novels he'd take to a desert island, the old sentimentalist be published in Prague next month seems nominates The Swell Season "because to contradict this claim. In The Two Murthat's part of my youth. I feel at home in ders of My Double Life, "one of the murmy memories."

American Civil War. It gets in close enough constructed but not real life. The other is to history to smell the breath of a real bloody murder that happens in bewinskered generals and gentlemen slave-drivers, but it largely follows two sets of der of the soul, really." He adds, alarmingly, immigrants: the Czech volunteers who that it arose out of an incident in which the shouldered arms with General Sherman, name of his wife Zdena Salivarova mysteand those other involuntary Americans riously made it on to an ancient but whose emancipation was underwritten by recently published list of agents of the StB, Czech-American novel.

That word "latest" needs qualification. Skvorecky began a massive programme of Prague. So she was cleansed of that suspiresearch into the Civil War 14 years ago, and finished the 600-page novel the year before the Velvet Revolution. It was don't think she will ever fully recover from brought out by the exile press the author and his wife ran in Toronto (68 Publishers), but not published in Czechoslovakia until 1992. Novelists who write in a "little" language from the old Eastern Bloc are used to stalled schedules imposed by translation and samizdat, but Skyorecky's peculiar biography tells of uniquely interminable delay. The Cowards, his hip, Heming-wayesque debut set in his Bohemian home town during the Reich's retreat, lurked in a drawer for years. Published in 1958, it was the first Czech novel to forsake the language's stiff formality for slang. The reviewers macheted it and Skvorecky lost his jeb as an editor. Some crime stories starring his "mountful" Lieutenant Boruvka appeared under a pseudonym, but Czechs had to wait for the Prague Spring, and then another 21 more directly autobiographical fiction starring his alter-ego Danny Smiricky.

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(Time 14-7)

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For several of the books, the journey into English has been just as circuitous. The Tank Corps, about his National Service, took nearly 40 years to enter our language; The Miracle Game, about a priest accused by the Communists of faking a miracle, nearly 20. Had It for the Blues, "a sort of summing up of my life, because I had a premonition I wouldn't live very long", was written when he turned 50. He's now 72, and it has just appeared in the States. He has taken the precaution of writing his new novel in both Czech and English. (But don't flames, known in the novels as saucy Maria hold your breath: he hasn't even told his and icy Irena, have blossoming grand-British publishers, Faber, about it yet.)

In The Bride to Texas, the focus of intercomical travails of the Czech abroad, but And they're just as much of a tease. He met transplanted away from Skvorecky's own experiences to those of his compatriots who are swell Season, "and Irena told me: "Do preceded him across the Atlantic by more you know what she said? "Grandma, why than a century. He had already written a didn't you have anything with him? He's book about Dvorak's sojourn in America. Why did be move on to the civil war?

"When I was doing research for Dvorak in Love, I came across some brief memoirs printed in the 19th-century Czech caleodars, as they are called, so I became interested, and theo I went

irst, the surname. It's only human to deeper into it and found out that there were quite a few Czechs in very interest-

During the long research, there emerged

a secondary project, to buff up the repu-tation of Czech soldiery. Though a source of tremendous literary enrichment, Hasek's The Good Soldier Sveik has perpenuated the national caricature, reinforced by the col-lective shrug the nation seemed to make after the crushing of the Prague Spring, of the Czech as a joker with his head in the sand. The high farce of The Tank Corps scarcely makes amends. The Bride of Texas tells of one yellow braggart whose Falstaffian claims of valour no one believes. He's even called Shake, an American rewording of Svejk. "The Czechs were great warriors in the Middle Ages," says Skyorecky, "but in modern times they never fought for their own cause. Czech soldiers were drafted into the Austrian army and their heart was not in it. But in every major war there was a contingent of Czechs who fought with the enemy of Austria or Germany - the Czech airmen, for instance, who took part in the Battle of Britain and distinguished themselves very much indeed. And there was such a contingent in the Civil War in the Union army."

Another reason why Skvorecky turned backwards towards Czech-American history was the worry that he had exhausted the well of material supplied by his own life. For fans, though, the dream ticket would surely be Skyorecky on his liberated home-

None the less, the new bilingual novel to ders, that happens in Canada, is the kind The latest entertainment is The Bride of of murder that Agatha Christie wrote Texas, a many splendoured tale from the about - it may be very interesting, and well Union victory. Call it the Great Afro- the secret police. "She charged the Ministry of Interior for spreading false rumours about herself and she won the trial in cion but it did terrible things to her. It impaired her health and everything and I that wound."

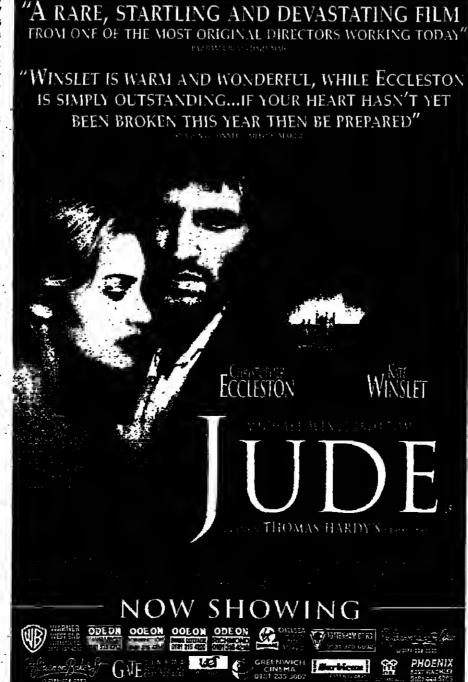
Skyorecky has had his own health scares too. When I met him four years ago, his doctor had put him on a dict, and he drank two pints of Guinness during the interview. White-haired and plump, he certainly looks and sounds his age, but a hip replacement last year, a winter spent in Florida, and an operation that "really smashed" a galistone this year seem to run parallel with a surge in energy. The Swell Season, and some detective stories, were popularly adapted for Czech television. His film adaptation of a Poe crime story is released at Christmas. Another script, based on his own The Tenor Saxophonist's Stories, will be filmed in 1998. Writing, he says, is "like a

sickness. I won't get rid of it."
In trips back to his native Machod, he has years for the Velvet Revolution, to read the re-met all the young things, now in their seventies, whose resistance to Danny Smiricky's charms is documented in so many novels. Surely the sentimental rake is allowed one last outing, if only to complete the circle? "I have been thinking about it for some time," he concedes, "because there will be a reunion of almost all the classes of the high school that I graduated from in Machod. We were 21 people in the class and I think only two have died so far. So maybe I will attempt to do it. That's a nice idea. You reminded me."

These nostalgic forays to his birthplace sur all the more memories now that his old daughters. The same age oow as when Skyorecky woodd their grannies, they look est is still love, loss, exile, liberty and the like the ghosts of his past come back to life. had more hick with the granddaughter. But it's too late for that."

> The Bride of Texas' is published on Monday by Faber £16.99, translated by Kaca Polackova Henley





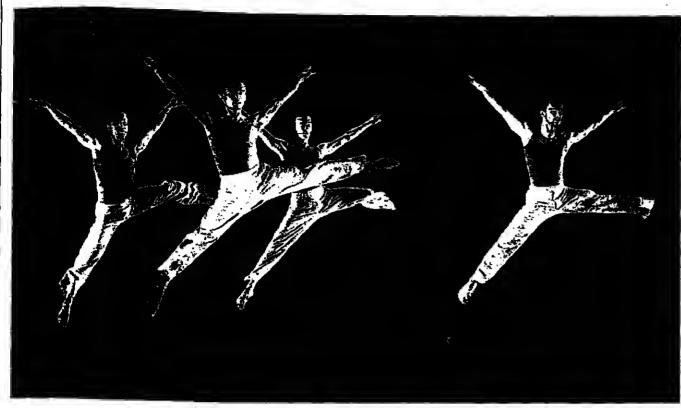
AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS LONDON



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DANCE Richard Alston Dance Company, QEH, London

As an exercise in bathos, Richard Alston Dance Company's mixed bill has few peers. But for vibrancy, progression and theatricality, vou'd do better to watch the musicians than the dancers themselves. By Louise Levene



Richard Aiston Dance Company performs Okho to the African rhythms of

he trick with mixed programmes is to get the pieces in the right order so that the excitement (if any) builds towards a climax, sending the audience out into the night feeling that its intellect and its emotions have been worked over by a professional. Thursday evening's performance by Richard Alston Dance Company seems to have cast its three elements in reverse order, beginning with a world premiere performed to live percussion and ending with an earlier work danced But what musicians they were.

Okho, the opening piece, was accompanied by three on-stage percussionists. During the first half, the mee tap out the complex monotony of Iannis Xenakis's African rhythms, the thumps finally diminishing to whisper with just the fingernalis tickling the skins. The dance, though seamlessly crafted and performed with a silky muscularity, seemed a rather aid and academic response to pri-

and steel drums. Four sticks in hand, his assault on his kit is a partly improvised sequence of startlingly aggressive thumps and taps. The movements of this bearded figure in black, his blond hair flying about, the light glinting madly off his spectacles, had more life and interest that those arranged by Alston.

Benjafield's energetic performance earned him whoops of approval from the audience but, to be frank, a policeman conducting traffic would have got wolf whistles from this lut. Their propensity to fits tn a tape. The whole set-up seetned to have been arranged so that the musicians could go home early.

In the giggles was nn help in the next piece, Orpheus Singing and Dreaming, performed to Birtwistle's Singing and Dreaming, performed to Birtwistle's 1970 Nenia: the Death of Orpheus. They found a lot of the crouching, agonising movements (think constipated cellist and you're about there) rintously funny, which was a little off-putting.

The story of Orpheus (Virgil's version via the libretto of Peter Zinovieff) is half spoken, half sung by the soprano Nicole Tibbels, who spits out the words one at a time. Birtwistle's intriguing composition is so powerful that, despite the invariably mal rhythmis Niewever, things hivered up considerably when Richard Benjafield installed himself behind a massive arrangement of djembes, snares of Darshao Singh Bhuller's Alston, in running his works in revision revision absorbing presence of Darshao Singh Bhuller's Alston, in running his works in revision and the response and determined to protect us from several determi

the decision to drag the musicians from the pit and park them behind the dancers you really have to go

some to upstage Roger Heaton and friends.

The work concludes when a long blue sheet is pulled downstage enstrouding Singh Bhuller until unly his head is visible. This seems a lot of trouble to go to as at no point does the movement succeed in suggesting that Orpheus's disembodied head is floating off downriver calling for his lost Eurydica:

The evening ended ("concludes" would suggest that the three pieces constituted some sort of progression) with Beyond Measure. Nine dancers enacted a kind of Congregationalist meeting using a pair of Martha Graham's old benches and a tape of Bach's Chorales and Chorale Preludes. The movement here, as throughout the evening, was clean and sharp: the whole show has a polite, seedess, almost wilfully untheatrical air. I think that this flatness could have been disguised by the simple measure of putting the drummers on last and letting the audience leave the building with pulses racing to African rhythms. Alston, in running his works in reverse order, seemed determined to protect us from such an irraCLASSICAL MUSIC James MacMillan: Cello Concerto premiere, Barbican

MacMillan's new work develops his 'dialogue of extremes' - between dissonance and harmony, innovation and tradition. Robert Cowan applauds his skill

bican where, between the grainy oarrative of Sibelius's En Saga and the dancing triplets of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, Sir Colin Davis conducted the world premiere of a work that brought us both narrative and dance. James MacMillan's Cello Concerto is a big James MacMillan's Cello Concerto is a big piece (40 minutes, arranged 15-10-15), bigger than The World's Reasoning – the first phase in a planned triptych reflecting the passage of Huly Week – though presumably not as expansive as a "large symphonic score" that's in the pipeline for next autumn. The programming context was identical to that which, a few weeks earlier had brought us Colim a few weeks earlier, had brought us Colin Marthews' Cello Concerto, though here it

seemed especially appropriate.

MacMillan's Concerto extends the "dialogue of extremes" that has proved a pivotal aspect of his earlier work. It opens with a bang, and keeps the soluist busily employed virtually for the duration. It is, in a word, a "real" Cello Concerto - lyrical, combative, rich in dialogue and scored with a skill that suggests innovative imagination and a marked respect for tradition. Mstislav Rostropovich was both its prompting agent (together with the LSO, that is) and its first interpreter, and if his highly demonstrative stage manner was anything to go hy - nodding approvingly at key tutti and quivering sionately at every soln entry - he believes in its many positive virtues.

The first movement, "The Mockery", cues yapping muted brass, a "stately" waitz, proud plainchant-style churales and a closing cadenza that fades - very gradually - from heartfelt protest to an almost imperceptible whisper. In a pre-concert talk, MacMillan explained how Rostropovich had sent him home at the last minute to revise the cadenza -a wise move, given the music's effectiveness. The finale fades in similar fashion, rising in pitch this time and punctuated by the fierce, percussive hammering that has been a significant "leitmotif" throughout the work.

The second movement ushers in bright, celestial chiming and filigree woodwinds, although wheo the finale hreaks through with images of rain, wind and thunder (MacMillan's use of percussioo is second-to-nooe among his peers) the drama greatly intensifies. The Cello Coocertn's design rests heavily on an imaginative juxtaposition of dissonance and harmony, grotesque dance tunes and the ritual blare of tonally bolstered James MacMillan, the Scottish Schnittke?

There was a definite thematic contiouity plainchant. "Scottish Schniltke" murmured a about Thursday's LSO Concert at the Barbica and the Barbi of a shared Northern candour. The Concerto's closing moments recall the statk, echoing retreat of Straviosky's Les Noces.

MacMillan's Cello Concerto played to an in the

appreciative full house. The performance seemed first-rate; there were hugs all round and Sir Colin Davis returned for a big-honed account of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony. He'd already treated us to a generously dramatic En Saga, and that generosity extended matic En Saga, and that generality extended to the symphony where, in addition to taking his time and bending the musical line. Davis gave us the first-movement and scherzo repeats - though not the finale's. He was truly in his element shovelling vigorously at the staccam crotchets that lead into the first repeat, signalling heavy vibrato with his left hand, bouncing, swaying and generally having a whale of a time. It was as if he had finished his day's work and was finally being let nut in play.



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TELEVISION Sliders (BBC2)

There's nothing like a spot of time travel. Especially when it's a vehicle for America to bare its tortured soul. Jasper Rees rides a wormhole to another dimension

time travel, a professor tags along in a bow tie. The professor, it goes without saying, has a name that sounds like he already comes from the dystopian sci-fi-scape he

Quinn, she's Wade, or maybe it's the other instance of a role named after a Dutch gracefully pacifist world where they have way round. Naturally, this being primetime painter taken by an actor whose own Christin to invent the atomie bomb in order to save tian name is even more ridiculous

Wheo they all come through to the other side, the team say things like "this place gives me the creeps?, a line you get at least

that phrase), an overdressed R&B singer American parannia, each plot imagines an gets sucked into the experiment. He's called alternative present where enemies who in marish inventions, too. When he's arrested,

the human race.

Io the opening story, a real peach, America is under the communist yoke. The greenhack is now red, and McCarthyesque is about to inurney to. In this case it's

Futuro, Maximillian Fnturo.

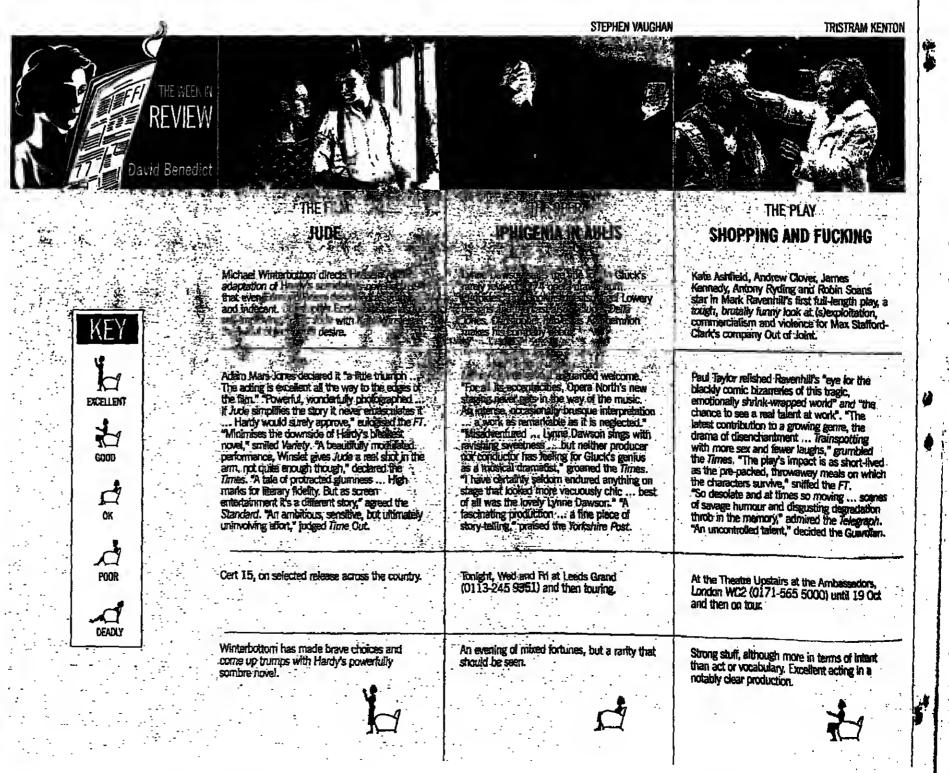
As the gang are about to slide through the wormhole into a different dimension (sorry, but there's no dignified way of rewording but there's no dignified way of rewording that physical are appearanced PAR sincer.

Since in every episode of Scooby Doo.

Plainly, this is a cartoon in which the characters happen not to be animated. (In any sense.) Somehow, though, Sliders is but there's no dignified way of rewording weirdly likeable. Giving full veltar all-weirdly likeable. He been faithfully reproduced the substitution of the complete of the substitution of the complete of the

When they'd finished making Sliders, the cupboard where the cliches are kept was bare. Two drably beautiful young things dabble in time travel. He's called Derricks, this constitutes a possibly unique real life have been vanquished oow reign triumphant. One forthcoming episode will find President Oliver North in the White Derricks, this constitutes a possibly unique House. In another, the team visit a disrogators prowl.

With almost saintly modesty, the script does allow that something is moderately rotten in the state of America. When he: arrested, Rembrandt's show trial is on a trial show, plainly inspired by the prurient American model available on Court TV. And when the gang escape from Leninist San Francisco, they re-enter the present right next door to a dosser kipping down under a statue of Lincoln. In salve their conscience, and the programme's, they duced, but there are some nicely night- dump some greenbacks un his heaving chest. But hey, at least they're green.



صكدًا من الأصل

# On the trail of the Ionesome prairie

Jan Morris likes the allegory but can't stand the conversation in a study of Montana's dry lands

Bad Land by Jonathan Raban, Picador, £15.99

Montana, his wife apparently thought it a less than thrilling notion - she watched his preparations, he says, "with poorly feigned enthusiasm", Mr Raban has already given us two famously skilful and affectionate books about the United States and he, perhaps intended Bad Land (sub-titled "An American Romance") to be the third in a explored, and illustrated by meticulous reconsequence. I rather agree with Mrs Raban, structions of Raban's particular examples of though. It is not that the Raban touch has lost migrants, what kind of people they were, what its magic only that for my own tastes the apparent subject, pursued for more than 300 pages, becomes a bit of a bore. Or perhaps I am out

For the apparent subject is by no means the whole of it. This is certainly not a travel book - Jonathan Raban never writes mere travel books. Ostensibly it is an examination of the process, soon after the turn of the 20th century. in which hundreds of thousands of migrants were lured to the east Montana drylands by the promise of quick agricultural riches. They were misled. Most of them did their best, failed and moved on, leaving the prairies desolate and largely empty behind them.

Nobody could conjure better the resulting tristesse. When Raban takes us into some longahandoned homestead of the prairies, with its collapsed verandah, its fridge without a door, the swallow-nests on its parlour walls, the foxed dog-eared copy of Campbell's Soil Culture Manual; when he turns his four-wheel-drive up the dirt road to one of these sad memorials of failure, we can bear for ourselves the wind off the flatlands, smell the dust, feel the springs on our thighs through the derelict sofa. His powers of evocation are unbeatable still.

hen the sublimely gifted Jonathan
Rahan set off from his home in
Seattle to write a book about eastern

But the book is much more. It is an allegory.
It is concerned not simply with the dry lands
of Montana and the troubles of its settlers, but with the whole historical drama of American immigration. The original helief in progress and destiny - the American Dream - has so often been followed by disappointment and ugly reac-tion, and the "bad land" of the title, I take it, is not just eastern Montana, but America itself. These are great issues, sensitively structions of Rahan's particular examples of migrants, what kind of people they were, what they read and talked about, how their attitudes were affected by the frequent failure (and occasional successes) of their enterprises.

I confess I did not at first realise the existence of this larger sub-plot. The trouble was that I found myself so unenticed by the foreground of the tale, the top layer of the allegory. Rahan evidently loves the empty monotony of the east-ern Montana landscape, just as he appreciates the down-to-earth practicality of its inhabitants. Neither captivates me. There is no pretending that by and large prairie people are scintillating talkers, and when their subject is their family's attempts to make an agricultural go of things, they tend to make my mind blur. Nobody begrudges them their memories, It must have been awful - fencing miles and miles of empty land, scooping coal out of the soil, desperately ploughing and digging and hoeing, with terrible weather and Biblical plagues of grasshoppers. But after a time I began to mud-dle up the Neds, Mikes, Percys, Loreens and Wynonas of Raban's reports and dialogues, to forget which was which or even which generation they represented - for having traced all he could trace of the original homesteaders, he went on to track down their descendants.



Photograph: Michael Nichols/Magnum

He is adept at a sort of DIY pioneerism, talk-ing knowledgeably about things like tally pins, sprockets and gumbo clay, and conscientiously chatting not only with intelligent retired schoolmistresses, but with good of boys in Stetson has on har stooks. Now and then, all the same, he cannot belp reminding us that he is a man born to a very different culture, beautifully educated, gracefully ready with an artistic analogy or a literary allusion. When he has had his fill of the Book of Revelation, the vatic text of American fundamentalist Christianity, he telephones his father, a High

Anglican English clergyman, to ask if he ever had reason to quote from that book during his professional life. What a relief, the dry ironic voice over the transatiantic telephone admitting that Mr Raban Senior "did have a weakness for the phrase 'the lukewarm Laodiceans' "I

"The dusty prairie", says the blurb to Bad Land, "holds the key to the puzzle of modern America'. This bit of hype, I assume, refers to Raban's contention that out of the disillusion-

ment of the homesteaders and their kind arose the extreme right-wing, anti-federalist movements that centre upon the American northwest, and the fanatic Christian fundamentalism of modern America. The Montana home-steaders were betrayed, and Campbell's Soll Culture Manual, which Mr Raban finds in that deserted house on a very early page of his book, was the instrument of their betrayal.

H.W. Campbell had evolved the theory that semi-arid land could be made fertile by capillary attraction - coaxing water out of the soil itself. Unscrupulously taken up by the railroad companies, who had vast tracts of land for development, and fostered by the Federal Government, this dubious proposition is what brought the settlers in their multitudes to Montana, and Campbell's Soil Culture Manual was among their required reading (later their own experiences were assembled under such titles as Wheels Across Montana's Prairie and Reapers of the Dust: A Prairie Chronicle - an empty house, or does it metaphorically titles which make my own heart sink, but conclude an American romance?

apparently only invigorated brave Mr Raban).

Capillary attraction did not work - most of the settlers journeyed on, impoverished and emhittered, to the west - and it was about then in Raban's narrative that I began to wonder if I had misunderstood the nature of his allegory, too. Perhaps it had developed, as he wrote it, into a metaphor of his own American experiences, as a settler himself? Could the had land of its title also be his personal United States? In the sad last paragraph of the work he returns, his researches mercifully over, to the house he has acquired (built 1906) in Seattle ~ "a good house for an immigrant; its somewhat shabby footing on the hill matched mine". He finds its door unexpectedly locked, and has to shoulder it open. His dog doesn't bark. There is a pile of mail for him, but no note. "Anybody home?" he calls in the final line of the book, but we are

not told if there is an answer. Is it just the symmetrical end of Bad Land, which begins with

### Holy bread and soldiers' bones

Emerson, the great New England transcendentalist, didn't mince his words. By Frank McLynn

Emerson Among the Eccentrics: A Group Portrait by Carlos Baker, Viking, £25

Dalph Waldn Emerson occupies an uncertain place in literature. While the achievements of other 19th-century New Englanders and Yan-scandal (quaint to our ears) that drove Emerson kees - Melville, Hawthorne, Thoreau, Whitman out of the Unitarian church and his early calling - speak for themselves, are we justified in seeing Emerson as any more than a talented essayist? But the school he is associated with - New England transcendentalism - was certainly influen-

tial in the northern USA before the Civil War. It was a kind of offshoot of German philosophical romanticism, impatient with mere "understanding." the mental faculty used in science or everyday life. Beyond that, thought Emerson and his followers, there was "reason" by which one intuits spiritual, metaphysical and other transcendental truths. Reason allows us to go beyond religious dogma, ethical tradition or received opinion. With Thoreau this took the socialist communities like Brook, Farm would-be form of a justification of civil disobedience; with Emerson it became a kind of fuzzy pantheism.

We can see the sort of thing the transcendenas a preacher. Emerson decided that when Jesus told his disciples to eat the bread and drink the wine in memory of him at the Lass Supper, he meant them to do it, but did not intend to impose a "memorial feast" on future generations. This was considered hlasphemous and Emerson was pressurised to take his transcendental insights else-

He did su, in an interesting career as essayist, poet, globetrotter and centre of a "school" that included Margaret Fuller and Amos Brown Alcott, father of the better known Louisa May. Emcrson's milieu was that of experimental. utopias such as the Oneida community and the religious sects of the Hutterites, Shakers and Mur-

mons,in whom Emerson took a great interest. What is attractive about Emerson is his wit, and what is not so attractive is his somewhat supercilious personality. He remarked that liberty on the lips of Daniel Webster was like the word "love" in the mouth of a courtesan; he characterised a had president (Franklin Pierce) as a "toad in amber"; he described Brigham Young as a "sufficient ruler, and perhaps civiliser of his

kingdom of blockheads." Yet he seemed able to maintain a lasting friendship only with second-raters. He patronised Whitman, an incomparably superior poet. He and Thoreau gradually drifted apart, probably because of Emerson's envy of his friend's superior talents; and Emerson quarrelled with Hawthorne because he (Hawthorne) had written an admiring political hiography of the pro-slavery president

Franklin Pierce. Emerson was in fact a good hater, and the following outburst against the South in 1865 shows a certain kind of Yankee sensibility at white heat: I charge the Southerner with starving prisoners of war; with massacring surrendered men with advertising a price for the life of Lincoln...with assassination of the president...with attempts to import the yellow fever into New York; with the cutting up of the bones of our soldiers to make

ornaments, and drinking-cups of their skulls."

Carlos Baker's book contains a lot of fascinating information about that curious collection of idealists centred round Concord and Boston in the mid-19th-century. My favourite was Amos Bronson Alcott who did not just try to found a socialist commune, hut a vegetarian socialist com-

The volume bowls along quite amiably, but is in many ways an old fashioned book, reminiscent of the Gay Wilson Allen style of hiography. It is written in a curiously esoteric way as if address-

ing a Princeton graduate seminar. Baker never identifies Brook Farm as an experimental Fourierist commune and there is an assumption that all his readers must know what it is. There is too much quotation from Emerson's letters and journals, to the point where the author seems at times unable to write a sentence without the

crutch of Emerson's own utterances. More seriously, there is no attempt to penetrate Emerson's inner psychological world, and in general too many of Baker's insights are cnnfined to the surface. There is much talk of eccentricity, but surely the most ound artefact is a hiog-raphy that hegins when the subject is 27, as this book does. If the child is father to the man using Baker's methodology we would have to conclude that Emerson was a product of parthenogenesis. There is a case for saying that in this collection of eccentrics the oddest of all is the author himself.

### Counting the virtues of a wide acquaintance

James Joyce gurgled his tea. Peter Scott was spoilt rotten by his mother. James Fergusson admires an acute diarist's eye

Fourteen Friends by James Lees-Milne, John Murray, £19.99

Tames Lees Milne writes of William Baroque in Spain and Italy, on Robert Adam and resembled the sort of decent, shy man tecture as others might paint it. you might hope, after the death of someone near to you, to encounter at the under- dynasty relies to the bright young friends of taker's."

World War, later as the Trust's Histuric the status of minor classics. Houses Adviser, for identifying properties for acquisition and - most subtly - for negotiating with long-landed squires, their heirs and assignces, the painful transfer of ownership. His eye for huildings is demnnstrated in the handsome books he wrote for Batsford on the

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Plomer: "He was by nn means handsome. and Inigo Jones, in which he describes archi-

His clear eye for people, from end-ofhis Twenties and Thirties, was first revealed Lees-Milne was, evidently, horn an much later, in his acute 1970 autobiography observer. His public career was with the . Another Self. in which he delivers an extra-National Trust in its glory days, when ordinary portrait of his art-hating father, and amateurism was still a solid virtue; he was then in his wartime diaries, beginning with responsible, before and after the Second Ancestral Voices (1975), which have achieved

> Lees-Milne is not tu everybody's taste. He appears too patrician for some, too provocatively incorrect. But his strength as an observer is that he has always felt an outsider; he has always had access to that natrician world (Eton, Magdalen, the Irish Guards, Brooks's), but not felt himself of it. Before he went to Oxford his father sent him on a course at a Stenography School for Ynung Ladies in Chelsea and, after he went down, his first job for four years was as a secretary. The first subject of his new book, the sculptress Kathleen Kennet (Mrs Captain Scott), he met during this time, and in 1937 - whilst she was still alive, and to her intense interest - he was asked by the Times to write her obituary.

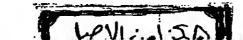
The texts for two other of his subjects, Sacheverell Sitwell and Rosamond Lebmann, began as obituaries in the Independent. Lees-Milne has conspicuous strengths as an ubituarist - apart from longevity (which could hardly have been apparent in 1937). He has had an astonishingly wide acquaintance, he has a long memory and a deep diary, an old-fashioned breadth of reading and a fine sense of small drama. He can be acerhic (he is occasionally merciless in his diaries), but he writes with love. "Sometimes in the watches of the night," he begins his account of the decorator John Fowler, "I try to induce sleep by counting the virtues of my friends."

Here is a moving portrait of Vita Sackville-West, who retreated into the sherry bottle in old age hut won Lees-Milne's "total affection" and for whose poetry. especially The Land, he is an assertive champion, here is Robert Byron, barking with laughter, to whom Lees-Milne's last again. Robert. Never! This is the end" humour, and the well-intentioned artist nastiest experiences of my life".

peer Paul Methuen, whose epitaph reads Optimum fecit - "He did his best". In counting virtues, Lees-Milne is inevitably interested in heredity. Just as his father deplored everything the young Jim stood for, so, he notes, his friends had terrible parental struggles. Henry Green (who refused to return to his family home after his brother inherited) denounces his father on a bus; Vita Sackville-West (who wrote a guidebook to Knole after not having set foot in the place for 20 years) had a mother who embroiled herself in embarrassing court cases - as did Sacheverell Sitwell's: James Pope-Hennessy loathed his major-general father, William Plomer's father bellowed at him for washing grapes; Kathleen Kennet, on the other hand, spoilt her son, Peter

In observation, it is the small detail (that diarist's bonus) which tells. Lees-Milne records meeting the slender-fingered James Joyce in Paris, and his gurgling over tea. furious words were "I shall never see you " Most poignantly of all in these rich, sharp, elegant memoirs, he remembers, with Byron went missing, believed torpedoed. Patrick Kinross in Scotland, having to dragshortly afterwards; here is the versatile but a broken-legged stag, a royal, into the sea ugly Oshert Lancaster, mure wit than to drown. It was, he says, "one of the





urder in 19th century Canada; paedophiles in Fifties England; V-1 rockets in Bermondsey, castration-happy policemen on the streets of Bombay, menace and lunacy in a Derry distillery, icebergs in the Atlantic..., it's not all beer and skittles in Booker-land. Apart from these threatening presences, this year's shortlist is mostly aparterized by the second skittles. characterised by secrets, uncertainties, puzzles in need of elucidation, guilty knowledge hugged by the characters. It is of course the basic function of a novel to "unfold" a plot so that we come to know the dramatis personae better at the end than we did at the beginning, but I can't remember a time when British fiction - at Booker level anyway - was less interested in narrative exuberance and more interested in static evocation. I wish this were a more original point of view; unfortunately Evelyn Waugh said the same thing in 1957...

The 29th Booker Prize looks set to be a very decent affair: nn headbutting, no harging in the line-out, no accusations of sexism, little-Englandism, pretentiousness or bad taste. All six shortlisted writers are wholly

**Margaret Atwood** Alias Grace Bloomsbury, £16.99



Margaret Atwood is, by general consent, near the top of the world's Premier League of novelists. This, her ninth work of fiction and the first time she has used historical events as the basis for a novel, is a disturbing and intense unlocking of the mind of an Irish servant girl who murdered her employer in 1843. Grace Marks spont 30 years in jail and was later pardoned, but nobody knows if she was guilty or innocent. "This is an Atwoodshaped space," commented Carole Angier, "a perfect case for her concerns: women as the objects of men's Justs and fears. and the connections between sexual and political exploitation". The narrative of a prototypical psychoanalyst, Simon, unfolds alongside Grace's own story. Two explanations of her behaviour are offered, but it's the scientist who comes to a sticky end.

### The Booker Shortlist 1996

respectable and atylish operators; four of them have appeared on the shortlist before (Beryl Bainbridge has practically got a season ticket); they're evenly divided between the sexes; there are representatives from the colonies and dominious (Mistry was born in Bombay and-lives in Canada, as does Atwood), and the Celfic Pringe (Deane is from Derry, Mackay was born in Edinburgh).
The only faint sign of controversy, in fact, is the inclusion of Seamus Deane's irreducibly antohiographical memoir of childhood Reading in the Dark (which includes an account of a classroom discussion involving his real-life.

> Seamus Deane Reading in the Dark Cape, £13.99



Seamus Deane is n Derry poet and academic who edited the three-volume Field Day anthology of Irish Literature. The connection between personal and political destiny in modern Ulster is at the heart of this autobiographical debut about a childhood in the Forties haunted by ghosts, family secrets and sectarian whispers. The whole locality," wrote Patricia; Craig. "seems awash in myths and fables which can work in .. contradictory ways: to impart: information and to keep things tantalisingly obscure... There is something eating away at the heart of this family. Perhaps it is meant to stand in some way for Northern Ireland, scuppered by inherited hlight." Reading in the Dark, she concluded, "is ... consistently felicitous in affect and compelling in atmosphere. But it's not optimistic".

not necessarily fiction has a respectable pedigree in Booker crules, from Schindler's Ark opports. [Besides which; it is good to see bucks to turn getting on...]

Also remarkable is the flight from the past in these six nevels. As though appalled by the featureless bordoms the Ninetes, modern writers plante more and more through the past in the past in these six nevels. As though appalled by the featureless bordoms the Ninetes, modern writers plante more and more through the past in the past i the past in search of richer tentures, bolder dramatics, historical phenomena, course calebras. The modern London through which Graham Swift's quarter of Estuary mates drive is so blank that you have difficulty working out if you're in this decade or the last. The working our n you're in mis decade or me tast. The
heroine of Shena Mackay's novel, her rossi simulicitrauma a vivid memory, has a bleak time of it in the
Nineties, wrestling with an overgrown Lindon garden.
The Booker "long list", which used to be a deadly
secret passed among literary editions like a Masonic
hymnood, was made public a mouth ago and hatured
an exciting brace of first novelists who traditionally,
don't make much of a showing in the nation's senior.
Interary prize: John Lanchester, whose gastronomic

Shena Mackay The Orchard on Fire



In Coronation year, 1953, April-aged eight, meets Ruby, her first best friend and shares an adyllic summer of bird calls, railway carriages and shared jokes in the cortifields and orchand of Stonebridge, the village where April's patents run the local tea-room. Into the nichtire comes Me room. Into the picture comes Mf.
Greeninge, a jovial sort with an invalid-wife, a sansage dog and a habit of turning up coincidentally all over the place - and gradually her childhood is corroded with fear. Mackay undercuts the warmth of April's family life with a real and creeping dread, wrote Esther Freud. For all the riotons descriptions of nature, the overpacked images too full of adjectives, this is a subtle book. Its themes are simply and beautifully constructed and the beguiling atmosphere of a Fifties childhood lingers on after the room. Into the picture comes Mr. childhood lingers on after the last page."

cultural murdeter's confession, The Debt to Pleasure, was the sensation of the spring, and John Preston, whose Ghosing drew a full house of exitatic reviews over the nummer. Elsewhere, Tim Binding's subtle and funny

summer. Elsewhere: I'm Binding's subtle and funny investigation of what happens to a hangman when he hangs up his neces. A Perfect Execution, was strongly fabraed, as was Colm Tolloin's coming out in the Falkdands rate; The Scor of the Night; and Ben Elton's Porcein which, despite his irresome moralising, struck a chard with literary commentation all over the metropolis. The winner will be announced at London's Guildhalf on Thesday 29 October. It's hard to tell whether Mr. Misny's panoramic tale spinning will wrest the prize from Mr. Bandradge, the Forces' Sweetheart of the literary world, whether the steely glint of Ms. Atwood's prose will suppress more than the lush and planning descriptions kills of Shena Mackay, whether Seamus Deane's southire Celtic gloom will occlude the sicrits of Graham Switt's terse East London quaffing partners. For my money, res a two-house race between Swift and Bandridge with Swift getting there by a nose.

Robinton Mistry A Fine Balance Faber £15.99



A tremendous feat of old dashioned story refling rule of past modernist obuches, this fold page stored is set in mide. Severnies India during the Emergency and amounts to a sustained ridicaling of Mrs. Canodicare page as pit story unfolds of two tailors who come looking for work in a lightly fictionalised Bombar. Mistry attributes as with the main characters family instones, from the time of independence, in long flashibacks. He has an excellent command of story telling structure and maintains a high what imprened next factor. telling structure and maintains a high what happened next factor throughout, wrote Higgo. Barnacle, although by the end Mistry's expert rear-jerioug technique has become counter-productive and, as he pues catastrophe upon disaster, it is increasingly bard to keep a straight face

**Graham Swift** Last Orders Picador, £15,99



The author of Waterland, by some way the finest British nevel of the Eighnes, returns with a subtly, shaded study of death and chance. The ashes of Jack Dodds, family butcher, and driven by his alkapted son and three friends from Bernstodsey to Margate where, as per file dead man's instructions, the asbes are to be scattered off the Pier. En route, bnatches of conversation, rows, arguments, parallel narratives, and flashbacks reveal how the and hashbacks reveal now he characters lives are intertwined.

"It is all very buty and moonplete in a lifetike, rather intuguing way," wrote Hugo Barnacle, "It is elaborate and absorbing but without a real narrative urge or unified
narrative urge or unified
structure. But Swift succeeds in
his main sum, creating just the
right kind of unused respect for
his characters, and for human
a variety and mortality.

### Welcome to Tinseltown, India

Clive James's new novel perfectly captures the complexity of Bombay, says Tim McGirk

At first, in Clive James's new novel, which chronicles the rise of a Bomhay street urchin into minor Bollywood film stardom. I was too aware of wash your white shirt without turning it wash your white shirt wash your white shirt without turning it wash your white shirt wash your wash your white shirt wash your wash your white shir James as the sardonic outsider, the TV personality. It's as if he's delivering his wry travelogue commentary gazing al Bomhay from his five-star Taj hotel room above the Gateway to India, or as he's speeding through the slums in an airconditioned Amhassador car. Yet even then, I have to admit, James is funny and his observations, often, are right on lar-

Here's James, for instance, on laundry: "Again, here is something that makes India marvellous: dirty water can give thought it would flatten out his story with you clean clothes. In mainland China, by contrast, a thousand million people pre-intruding. Artfully, he slips off and Miranda. She quickly tires of Sanjay and

grey, or to press it without crushing the buttons like aspirin in a spoon."

**Beryl Bainbridge** 

Every Man for Himself tells the

story of the four days on which

fateful meeting with an iceberg. It follows Beryl Bainbridge's

Antarctic, The Birthday Boys: as

people, a real event, a frightfully.

innocence. Peter Parker wrote:

frightening and funny - is done

unhalance someone descending them... The apparent simplicity of

this short, beautifully written

book should mislead no-one.

Here is a writer who knows

exhilarating panache."

precisely what she is doing and

who does it with unemphatic but

unfolding disaster - at once

with a series of small deft

touches: stairs which look

perfectly level, but which

Bainbridge's description of the

the Titanic sailed before its

novel about Scott of the

British catastrophe, to

memorialise the death of

in that book, she uses real

**Every Man for Himself** 

Duckworth, £14.99

James has a good feel for Bombuy and not only because the hotel laundry doesn't pulverise his shirt huttons. He sympathises with this mega-city of "somnolent chaos and last-minute urgency", and he tries earnestly to pin down the proper vocahulary to describe the city's the fence to the Silver Castle, a film qualor without sensationalising or trivialising it. James' style has such a strong. humorous pull that, in the beginning, I

good looks and eleverness, to pursue his obession: having sex with Mumtas, the reigning sex symbol of Bollywood whose "thundercloud hair was done in a strange, wonderful way that made it look wild and windhlown and yet heavy, as if it had been rinsed in cream and then

photographed while it was flying". As a boy, Sanjay wanders out of his "rag-and-bone suburhette" of garbage and mud and climbs through a bole in studio outside Bomhay. To Sanjay, it looked like "the place where the creation of Earth must have been planned, the fortress of the gods". He is fed, cleaned

The Silver Castle by Clive James

Cape, £15.99

discards him, but throughout his misadventures with the beggar gangs on the streets of Bomhay, his memories of Silver City sustain him like a talisman. Sanjay's first acting job is to flash his beautiful smile to help advertise a pavement tooth-puller. That's followed hy a sojoum with a loquacious English pederast who likes slumming it and call-ing Sanjay after Kipling's Kim. The

and he gives him an English dictionary, which Sanjay uses to decipher stories in gossip magazines about his beloved Muntas.

With a sly hand, James take digs at our own voyeurism of despair. Sanjay's hig break comes helping western television crews do documentaries on Bomhay's poverty. Eventually, an Australian crew comes to explore another obligatory Bombay topic - the Indian film industry- and they lap up Sanjay's gossip-magazine knowledge. He ends up hack at the Silver Castle studio of his childhood and hustles a job as a junior stunt

down to the gangs of beggar kids who smoke heroin before they curl up to sleep on top of the public urinals, James makes it all real.

As the India correspondent for this newspaper, I've come to know Bomhay fairly well. I've probably been conned by the same pack of beggars outside the Gateway of India as James, and I've probably peered into the same brothels on Falkland Road as he did, and I think that James has captured the city right. He's a shrewd observer who takes in all of Bombay's complexities, its greed, its wretchedness and its dreams, without man. Horrible things happen to bim.

From the Malahar Hills drawing and always ironic, this is James's best Englishman pays off Sanjay with some rooms, where industrialists argue the novel. The next time I'm in Bomhay, I'll gay contacts among Bombay's very rich, merits of Lamborghini versus Ferrari, be thinking of Sanjay.

Fish is the most underrated, and by far the most versatile, of culinary delights. It's also flavour of the month among smart chefs. Don't miss Michael Bateman's three-part guide to the new wave of piscine cuisine

The Cultural Revolution Part Two: over the next 20 years, even sex and shopping will change heyond all recognition. Prepare for the future by reading about the nnline home, and about a private life that would amaze your grandmother



The Tory Report: what have the Conservatives really achieved in their 17 years of power? Peter Keliner and Paul Barker look for the truth behind the massaged figures

Plus: Nicholas Barber on the noble art of hotel-trashing



### Postcards from 'Dante's Florence'

Robert Winder muses on the significance of a guidebook for the perplexed

here's a saying in the property mar-ket that nothing really matters except the three "I's: location, location and location. Malcolm Bradbury, taking this to heart in his Atlas of Literature, seems to be seeking a new sobriquet for himself: The Geography Man. An undeniably bandsome volume - a coffee-table account of what happened where in the world nf hooks - his Atlas is also a serious attempt to demonstrate that novelists are really travel writers, even if they don't go anywhere. It proposes that literature has always been inspired by real places (hard to argue with that) and has also impregnated and transformed these places for future generations. The Introduction quotes Melville ("Nearly all literature, in one sense, is made up of guidebooks") and Eudora Welty ("Fiction depends for its life on places"), and refers to Bradhury's own conviction that "literature and geography are intimately related." It is, on the face of it, a good subject, and no one has charted it so thnroughly before. It isn't easy, admit-tedly, to think of "Dante's Florence" in the same breath as, say, "Hanif Kureishi's London". And the book does imply that all writers are basically up to the same thing, which is to com-pose allegories about where they live. But clearly we do think differently about the Lake District after Wordsworth; we do visit Dorset expecting to hump into Tess, Bathsheba and the Mayor of Casterbridge; and of course we can't look at the maps of northern France without

The Atlas of Literature ed Malcolm Bradbury De Agostini, £25

handed a poetic or mythical resonance not merely by what happened there, but by what was written there.

Bradbury has assembled a notable team of contributors: Arthur Miller on Broadway, Melvyn Bragg on Lakeland, Louis de Bernières on Latin America, Terry Hands on Shakespeare's London, Justin Cartwright on South Africa, and many others. There are masses of appealing photographs, and the maps are clear and useful (though the one illustrating "Henry James' International Scene", an elaborate route plan over the north Atlantic, looks absurdly like a frequent-flyer special offer).

But it was perhaps risky, in a project demanding both hreadth and balance, to include only six female contributors out of 44. And it might, on second thoughts, have been better to have had fewer, longer essays rather than so many brief summaries. The contributors seem to have been asked to write a couple of thousand words on their chosen place "Cervantes' Spain", "Shakespeare"s
London", "Kafka's Prague "Dylan
Thomas's Wales and so on - mentioning no fewer than a dozen writers. Inevitably, no one has time to stop and look at the view, which one might have thought was the whole point. The recoiling at the bloody associations of the names: Y pres, Passchendaele, the towards an extremely banal idea which Somme. These landscapes have been finds its most dismaying expression in

of the many novelists to write about the society she lived in". Well, knock me down with a feather.

It seems baffling too that a volume so clearly aspiring to be encyclopaedic should be so fitful and patchy. Everyone, coming to a project such as this, will have their own list of writers who seem like foolish omissions, but bere the gaps are breathtaking. Malory? Proust? Nabokov? Tolstoy? Chekhov? Wodehouse? All of them would seem to have contributed bugely to our imaginary versions of the dark ages, fin-de-siècle France, Tsarist Russia and Edwardian England, hut they don't get so much as a look in. Even among the contemporary writers who one would have thought merited inclusion - "Bellow's Chicago... Updike's East Coast" - there are startling gaps. Raymond Carver is famous for having mapped a specific slice of modern Americana, but he escapes the book's eagle eye along with his friend Richard Ford, who once went read Derek Walcott's magnum opus, Omeros, which makes a hig deal out of transferring a landscape - "Homer's Aegean" - to the Wesl

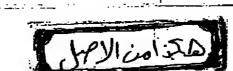
At its best - as when Bradbury himself explains how Washington Irving's rose-tinted view of England informed America's kitsch sense of this country; or when Arthur Miller rejects the thesis of the hook and insists that Broadway was always does.

a caption about Mrs Gaskell. "Mrs crude, commercial and anti-art - the Elizabeth Gaskell" we learn, "was one volume does stir fresh air into the relavolume does stir fresh air into the relationship between literature and place. But all too often it drifts towards statements of the obvious. The essay on modern London complains that Martin Amis's lowlifes are "literary". Things have come to a pretty pass when a work of literary criticism uses the word "literary" as a term of ahuse.

Some of these lapses may be inevitable by-products of committee-

produced volumes such as this. The captions, in particular, seem to have strayed from a children's history book. The studies in psychoanalysis made by Sigmund Freud are today recognised throughout the world...Goethe created figures of almost mythical sig-nificance...The Second World War provoked a now boom in art and literature." Occasionally these numb sentiments creep into the text itself. "The novel," we learn, "is generally slower than poetry to react to the immediate moment." Quite what this tells us - apart from the fact that novthat geography alone is enough to inspire a writer." A pity, too, that the author of the Caribbean entry has not read Derek Walcon's magniners. els take longer to write than poems thought that only a biologist could accurately name the place where this

needed to be stuffed. It is a great pity, since the intention was a fine one and the book is mostly straightforward and clean-cut. But it does lead one to doubt the whole idea that literature is significantly about "place" at all. Raymond Carver once wrote: "Literature is about people does that need saying?" Maybe it



# D'Angerous liaisons

Margaret Drabble being snide about reviewers? Tut-tut, says Hugo Barnacle

The Witch of Exmoor by Margaret Drabble, Viking, £16

the outset of her new novel, Margaret Drabble writes: Begin on a midsummer evening... Let us say that we Hampshire." As Aristotle showed, either we are or we aren't. Let us not muck about.

Graham Swift

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The Tree

The first scene is a dinner party. and although the setting is meant to be contemporary, there is a curious timewarp effect. The well-heeled company are playing the "Just Society" game, where they have to pick the kind of world they would like to be born into if they didn't know their social position in advance. These bourgeois postprandial guilt-trips were such a staple of literary fashion in the age of flares, Austin Allegros and brown corduroy modular sofa units that it really does feel quite strange in a hrand new book.

Perhaps in reality Drahhle is not so much out of date as out of ideas. A successful middle-aged man and his successful middle-aged sisters are worried that their hrilliant but batty old mother, the "witch" of the title, is going to squander their inheritance. Nina Bawden's Family

Money has dealt with similar themes in rather better style. There are also overtones of Barbara Vine, and some skeletons in the family closet which bear a strong resemblance to those Drabble has rattled at us hefore, in The Radiant Way .

The writing shows amhition, hut not the inspiration to match. The word "palimpsest", a common symptom of this complaint, appears as carly as page 18, when Nathan, an adman married to one of the sisters, takes a walk to look at the countryside. In his mind, "The rural England of advertising is superimposed on the palimpsest of the England of Hampshire in the 1990s." It is doubtful that you can logically superimpose something on: a palimpsest any more than you can dilute water, but the aim is to work the ghastly word in somewhere, anywhere, for its ready-made poshprose associations.

Drabhle produces a troublingly high number of these lines that announce their own eleverness hut do not supply it. Describing the vast and hideous house where Frieda the "witch" lives in remotest Devon, the narrator asks, "What folly had built this folly here ...?" For noticing that madness and an extravagant building can both be referred to by the word "folly", *nul points*.

Frieda walks through her overgrown grounds, "this wracked and rent, this Rackham woodland". The allusion to the great illustrator helps us to visualise the scene and ties in with fairytale parallels elsewhere, but the chiming sound of "wracked" makes it all embarrassingly self-conscious and the suggestion of "rackrent" is a complete irrelevance. There are no

landlord-tenant relations involved. Nathan's mother, meanwhile, doesn't like him living in his trendy South Bank block because there's an E in the postcode, an ugly reminder of the East End their Jewish family worked hard to escape from. We are told she "hasn't moved with the times. She won't even eat food with an E in it." Surely a preoccupation with E-numbered food additives is as neurotically modern as you can get?

David D'Anger, a suave Guyanese academic married to another of the sisters, is repeatedly described, because of his dazzling powers of persuasion, as "dangerous". You see it coming the instant Drahhle introduces him, but that doesn't make it any easier to bear.

Will Paine, a character intended to he catalytic but really just peripheral, is half-Jamaican and, we are told, "too nice-looking to be pure-bred English. The pure-bred English are a motley, mottled, mongrel ugly hreed, blotched with all the wrong pigments, with hair that does not do much for them at all. The English are clumsy and gross and at the same time runtish. They do not make the best of themselves. Their bodies are thick, their faces are either pinched and beaky like mean birds or shapeless as potatoes." Is Drabhle speaking for herself here? She doesn't seem to be speaking for David Niven, Cary Grant, Vivien Leigh of Julie Christie. And "pure-bred English" is a stupidly racist contradiction in

Nearing the end, the narrator says, "We are nearing the end. Soon we can go for the kill. Indeed, for the overkill. There will be one or two deaths, but not many." So, not an overkill at all, then. Not exactly Operation Gomorrah or anything.

Readable enough in its second half, once the action belatedly starts, the novel nevertheless contains a quantity of suide remarks about book reviewers, invariably a sign that the author is conscious of failure and expects had notices. May Drabble



A fittle gentler on the G-String, Mr Smith': Pasha and Bayadère from the camera of the early Victorian photographer, Roger Fenton. In the summer of 1858 Fenton staged and recorded over 50 images of the odalisques, musicians, and hookah-snokers in his London studio. Delacroix assidniously took sketchbook and paints onto the streets to capture his Orient. By contrast the cheerful air of amateur dramatics that pervades Fenton's collection is not to be missed. 'Pasha and Bayadère' is published by the Gelty Museum in the Studies in Art series.

### Piling on the agony

Susie Boyt is simultaneously repulsed and impressed by the tale of a Harlem heroine

Push by Sapphire, Secker, £7.99

How Stella Got Her Groove Back by Terry MacMillan, Viking, £16

t's unusual for a book to make me cry. or, for that matter, to make me vomit. Push, a novel by an American writer called Sapphire, produced both reactions. It tells the tale of Precious Jones, a 16-year-old black girl who has never been out of Harlem, who has suffered the worst kind of childhood abuses you could imagine. Raped by her father from intancy, she gives birth to his child at 12. on the kitchen floor, following a severe beating from her mother who has also subjected her to sexual and physical assaults. The result is a mongoloid baby whom she refers to throughout the book as Little Mongo. At 16, Precious is pregnant by her father again and, as the baby starts to show inside her, is expelled from school, and sent to an alternative centre for children with difficulties, called Each One Teach One.

Here, in a small class of rape and incest survivors, ex-crack addicts, a girl who has had to watch her mother being murdered and a junior prostitute, Precious begins the long and difficult journey towards recovery. Trying to write helps her find a way of acknowl-

edging what she has suffered. Learning certainly forces one to consider these never facile, and does not underestimate the obstacles involved.

tinctly uncomfortable, for many differ- with the HIV virus. ent reasons, and it is obviously meant to. brutal and depraved sex with his daughter. We are given a glimpse of her state of shame and confusion after these regular assaults when we are told that smearing her face with her own facces after her father has raped her is somehow soothing to the heroine's troubled mind. I wondered, while reading, what exactly the point of committing all this horror to paper was. To let the world know that such things go on? To show how completely vulnerable children are to their parents' desire to damage them? To make a point about hope - that some kind of sanity can be salvaged from even

the most vile beginnings? The book

to read her class-mates' work as well as questions, all of which seem valid and books like *The Colour Purple* help her to manage her shame. The book's movescale of the tragedy and the explicit ment towards hope is slow and difficult, details of the sexual suffering are too much. Just when things look as though they couldn't get any worse, Precious Reading this book made me dis- discovers that her father has infected her

The author teaches creative writing We are not spared any details when Sap-phire describes Precious's father having and poetry in New York City and has said that Precious's life is the kind of story that is familiar to her through her work with teenagers. At times, Push made me wonder whether it was right to convert such terrible personal tragedy into a literary product. But perhaps that's the point: that no-one wants to have to face up to, or take responsibility for, things that have gone this wrong. The father's delight in his daughter and her mother's abuse are so vile that you are left with the feeling that you have been forced to watch what took place. Hence the vomit.

> A tendency towards blandness in Groove Back was a life-saver after of emotional awakening.

Sapphire's book. This is a tale of how a successful, 42-year-old black financial analyst called Stella Payne turns her world around. As the book begins, Stella's life is shown as near-complete. She has a great joh, a beautiful apartment with quirky colour scheme and leather flooring. She has a son, Quincy, she adores, a toned and youthful body, and a holiby designing original pieces of furniture. In fact, she hardly has time to notice that the one thing she lacks is a meaningful relationship.

This all changes when a trip to Jamaica sends her reeling. Suddenly, all the things she has previously valued - security, financial success, control - seem to lose their allure as she finds herself falling for a 20-year-old Jamaican man. The book is written in a light, conversational style which lends itself particularly well to the heroine's frequent attempts to get herself back on the straight and narrow.

Although How Stella Got Her Groove Back could benefit from a more complex Terry McMillan's How Stella Got her plot, it is a pleasant, undernanding tale

**Audiobooks** 

Plain Tales from the Hills read by Martin Jarvis

10

H

Microserfs read by Matthew Perry

Audio is exactly the right medium for ADouglas Coupland's disturbing, very

American, but strangely engaging

£7.99), a high-tech totally switched-on version of *Friends* which takes a peek

Microserfs (HarperCollins, 3hrs,

into the lives of a cohort of young

Microsoft to become cyberlords in

the Hills (CSA, 6hrs, £11.99) is too

Raj collection for hooray Henries

with a hankering for howdahs. They

are in fact largely love stories, full of

timeless characters and remarkably

perceptive on the human condition.

Read with wisdom and affection by

Christina Hardyment

Martin Jarvis.

whom

Who's reading

often assumed to be a rah-rah for the

Rudyard Kipling's Plain Tales from

their own right. Acutely socially

computer nerds making a bid to

escape from the all-powerful

observant and very funny.

### Paperbacks -

Reviewed by Emma Hagestadt and Christopher Hirst

The Hidden Wiring by Peter Hennessy (Índigo, £7.99) Britain in hugely fortunate in having the assiduous and witty Hennessy to probe our "hack of an envelope constitution" Sometimes it seems barely to exist -

THE HIDDEN WIRING PTER HENNESSY

witness Michael Heseltine's aggressive empire building, though his post is "unknown to the constitution". Yet Hennessy insists on the importance of this "curious compound ... concealed beneath layers of opacity and mystery". His study ranges far and wide, but is most incisive on the monarchy. Its powers are substantial - if mostly in abeyance - and it is here to stay. A "defunet politican" as head of state just won't do.

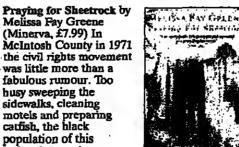
Margaret MacMillan (Thames & Hudson, £9.95) MacMillan's hugely enjoyable history commences with the traumatic acclimatisation of the newcomer. One guide recommended flannel underwear, net corset, petticoat, camisole and woollen tea-gown as the minimum acceptable

The Way We Live Now by

Women of the Raj by



wear. But there were compensations. A French visitor noted "the enormous quantity of beer and wine absorbed by young Englishwoman". Everyone remarked on the unexpected "playfulness" of the Raj. One regiment was known as the "Fornicating Fifth", while two memsahibs were dubbed "Treacle Tart" and "Bed and Breakfast Betty".



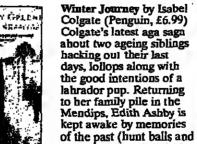
catfish, the black population of this isolated Georgia backwater had little time for organised protest. But, as the book's author is at pains to point out, history happened here too. Combining oral testimony with her own narrative recreation of events, this toothsome social history resurrects the key players in a local drama every hit as gripping as that played out in the streets of Montgomery and Little Rock.

SNAKE

BITE

SONNET

MAX PHILLIPS



failed marriages) and Mrs Weeks's shepherd's pie. But being a practical sort she's determined to whip herself, and hatchelor brother Alfred, into shape before old age really hits. A novel in which nothing happens - apart from long chilly walks and chats with the neighbours explained. English life at its most claustrophohic.



about the collapse of Lloyds - and too much is



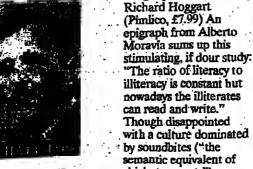
Shena Mackay finds sufficient self-effacement in Alec Guinness's 'My Name Escapes Me' (Hamish Hamilton)

"I'm rather hooked, in a dipping-in, dipping-out, fashion on Alec Guinness's 'diary of a retiring actor'. Although written for publication -Charles Moore was the protagonist, with the idea of snippets for the Sunday Telegraph - it is clever and unselfconscious. Guinness muses on whatever catches his fancy: the death of Red Rum, the national lottery, trips to the theatre, hirds in the garden, the odd exodus from retirement to do voice-overs. Lucid, witty and urbane."

H G The History of Mr Wells by Michael Foot (Black Swan, £7.99) It is hard to imagine many of today's 21-year-olds having to ration their reading of Tono-Bungay while on a first visit to Paris. Foot's youthful enthusiasm has

continued unabated, despite the decline in HG's stock. From its ringing opening, "He was born in Kent, where Socialism was born", this is mainly a political life. In particular, HG's defence of a woman's right to choose is valid as ever. Of his subject's sexual athleticism, Foot defensively notes, "his love affairs were long-lasting" though in a fictional self-portrait, Wells

italicises his own behaviour as disgraceful.



by soundbites ("the semantic equivalent of chicken nuggets"), Hoggart is not bereft of hope. Curiously for a writer with such a keen eye for detail, his arguments are viriated by weak research. Categorizing pop songs, he merely produces a list of titles "put down as they come to mind". Hoggant's deficiency in humour may he a factor in his distaste for mass culture.

Snakehite Sonnet by Max Phillips (Abacus, £9.99) Since the age of ten Nicholas Joseph Wertheim has been obsessed by Julia and her auburn armpits. Nine years older than himself, she's flaky, beautiful and bohemian, and not above giving him the eye m Melody's Ice Cream Parlour. Destined to float in and out of his life for

the next 20 years, Julia prefers men who treat her bad and take her to Paris. In the meantime Nick has to make do fantasising about high school girls and their "marshy" regions in the privacy of his suburban bedroom. A sweet and sexy memoir of American adolescence in the Seventies but really as superfluous as the above mentioned hair.

Café Europa by Slavenka Drakulic (Abacus, £6.99) According to Croatian journalist Slavenka Drakulic, at the heart of every Eastern European city there's a Café Europa. It's a name that promises all the goodies of the West - creamy cappuccinos, rich chocolate cake and reams of loo roll - and cocks a snook at established values. In a

series of sparkling personal essays (including reflections on why she's never worn her Kenzo suit and a bad experience at the Cheltenham Literary Festival), Drakulic examines the continuing East West divide, and her own ambivalent feelings to her communist past. A book that will catch you out in prejudices you never knew you had.



bazaar

#### **Good thing**

#### Velvet shirt, £40

If last year's £80plus price tags on simple casualbut-smart velvet shirts meant that you went without, mope no more - your days sans velvet are now over. Delicious, floppy velvet shirts in a wide range of fashionable colours are



currently filling the racks at M&S. Of course it's a shame it bas taken them a year to get their act together, but the price - a mere £40 - and the colours - orange, chocolate, ruby, purple - more than make up for their tardiness on the fashion-front

Marks & Spencer, call 0171-935 4422

#### Mad thing

Let Rip Fun Pot, £3.00

Unlimited farts are now available in a handy little pot. This flatulent version of toy classies such as "Slime" consists of a ball of soft green putty which embarrasses itself every time you shove it back into the container. Good taste never goes out of style.



Call Bhs 0171 262 3288

#### Cyclone comp winners

The first three names but of the Dyson cylinder were: Helen Mackay, Manchester; Adrian Seviour, London; Pam Grogono, Norfolk, Congratulations to them.

### The iron lady from Benetton to blacksmith

Alison Culiford meets Suzanne Ruggles

Ruggles's book. A business-woman setting up franchises for Benetton in the late Eighties, she opened a magazine one day and saw a sofa constructed of steel. "It was total instinct. I knew, "This is what I want to do." "the recells the appears." want to do," she recalls. She appren-ticed herself to a blacksmith and learnt bow to bend, break and weld

metal, then began designing.
"I faxed my scribbles to him and
he said, 'Great. We want to make them up,' and that was it. If people had said, 'Don't give up the day job,' then I'd still be there now."

It is easy to see why her ideas were snapped up when you enter her shop, which opened in Chelsea's King's Road in July. Plate glass fronted - with a crude, industrial style mast in the window supporting a glass shelf on which a sculpture appears to float - it is part shop, part stage set, peopled with a constantly changing cast of imaginative furniture pieces, sculp-ture and art. Walking in, you are confronted by an extraordinary steel bodice with spiralled metal breasts mounted on a curving, linear base. Thoughts of Joan of Arc came straight to my mind, but the female warrior was in fact commissioned by Simpson's for a window display on the theme of "the spell of the Highlands". The theatricality spills into the furniture designs too - an enormous, bil-

nyone who complains that their creativity is stifled by the need to make a living should take a leaf out of Suzanne table, stone-topped with a Latin inscription about the sea, bas pol-ished steel legs like shells or a wave over-topping itself. There are smaller pieces, too: delicately balanced candlesticks and blackened bowls, all with a sculptural quality.

"I wanted to show that metal furniture doesn't bave to be purely functional. It is such a versatile medium – it can be contemporary with clean lines or it can be elegant. I continue to experiment with new ways of adapting the metal, eroding it with chemicals, rusting it. But bal-

ance is everything."

The training she gave herself, while "bloody hard" because of the brute strength required, was vital in enabling her to design. Now she farms out the construction to a team of craftspeople who work from her drawings.
"Because making things out of

metal is all to do with line, what you draw is what you get, as long as you understand the principles beforehand. People have asked me to work in wood and I found that difficult because I didn't understand bow it works."

Quality of workmanship is a vital factor. "We don't buy in any motifs - everything is constructed from scratch," Rope designs, a recurring theme, are made from three metal rods, twisted and clamped. The legs of the Tripod tables are tied in the centre by a metal rope and look as lowing chaise longue is inviting if they would spring apart if it were despite its hard, cold material (of removed, while the Neoclassical



appear to dangle as if made of silk. She is planning an exhibition for Ruggles sees the sbop as a later this month which will include medium for the interchange of ideas. Paul Margetts (whose Masai war-She undertakes large-scale commissions for restaurants, clubs or shop window displays and these often give rise to ideas that can be

of the V&A sparked off an idea for the Ad Vitam table, where the Latin exhibitions celebrations – it will he phrase meaning "to eternal life" other commissions will evolve as people walk in off the street.

gallery, though one, she emphasises, metalwork and were welcomed, not

Health & Leisure

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BACK AND SCIATIC PAIN?

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are looking for.

armchair has metal tassels that that is not rarified or off-putting. riors and moving semi-abstract adapted for smaller pieces.

A table designed for the Friends

A table designed for the Friends

and a photographer. "I've given them a brief and will see what they

about having fun." reads in a perpetual circle. She hopes that from these showpieces refreshing in the world of contem-This unpretentious attitude is porary design. While I was in the shop two workmen in paint-spat-The shop is also something of a tered jeans came in to examine the

greeted with stony silence. "As long as I keep an open mind people will keep coming into the shop and back I come with new ideas," she says. That, too, seems to be the key to creativity.

> Suzanne Ruggles, 436 King's Road (0171-351 6565) Prices: from £29.50 for rose bowls, Gilded frames from £23. Tripod tables from £295 Ad Vitam table £850. Slipper sofa (what I called a chaise longue) £1800. These she calls her "more sculptural pieces" and they are therefore more expensive. Neoclassical armchair with cushions £495.

Personal

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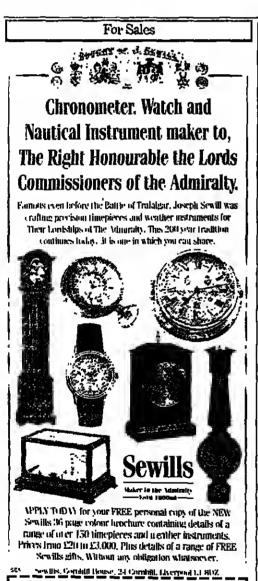
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House and Home

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photograph:

Claire Gervat discovers the joys of jeans that are made to fit you — not some man

ve always thought that Professor Higgins fitting. At the store, in a special section rather must be the influence hehind the jeans industry: "Why can't a woman be more like sured up (waist, hip and rise) by one of the speeterminedly cootinge to make denims in a women's shape is so different from men's?

Only in the past 15 years or so have the leading brands introduced designs especially for women that don't ignore the existence of hips, and a lot of the high-street chain stores also make their own ranges. But unless you happen to conform to the "standard" proportions used io mass production - which are, after all, only an average, and a Fifties average at that - then you may as well give up on the idea of buying jeans at all. I certainly had.

he international

Poetra Competition

Prize Wanta

In The Band"

Uotil just over a week ago, that is, when I walked nut of the Original Levi's Store in-Regent Street, London, wearing a pair of jeans that fitted impeccably, feeling extremely happy (I used to walk out of jeans shops feeling there must be something terribly wrong with me). For in the basemeot of that shop is a corner devoted to the new Personal Pair scheme, which brings the techniques of mass-customisation to the clothing market and enables women to find the perfect denims cut for their combination of

man ... "Why else would manufacturers cially trained saleswomen. From a wall of drawers, she selects a pair of jeans that seems likely that's a perfect fit, the legs are turned up to the length that you choose. Then all your details are entered into the computer and sent by modem straight to the factory in Belgium. And having paid up your £65, a premium of around £15-£18

on off-the-peg styles, you walk out. Delivery to the store is promised within 21 days, although Levi's hopes to complete all orders within seven working days - and mine was ready in less than a week. I left the shop wearing my new jeans and have been wearing them every day since then - amazed by this revolution in clothes-making. But why has it taken such a long time for mass-customisation to be applied to cinthes, when the car industry, for instance,

has heen using it for quite a while? Bart DeBouvier, special projects manager for Levi Strauss & Co Europe, thinks it's because trousers are much more complex. "Tailoring has existed for a very long time, but no one's ever waist, hip and navel-to-back-waistline (through really ventured into doing mass-customisation the legs) measurements.

in clothing, primarily because it has to do
First, you ring to make an appointment for a fit, the whole feel of the cloth and so on." in clothing, primarily because it has to do with

the mind of Sung Park, an American software months, and theo we will decide where we go. developer, by a visit to a tailor in Hong Kong who made him a suit in 24 hours. Sung Park here in stonewashed indigo and a slightly began to wonder whether the principles of indi-"one shape fits all" design; when most to fit your shape; if that's not right you try another - vidual tailoring could be made to work on a -- a high waist or button-fly with a slightly lower-(including leg length; there are close to 7,000 pos-much larger scale. After some research in the saist. In America there are six colnurs available. -sible combinations). When you have a pair US, he discovered that jeans were something including black, the mist requested colnur so US, he discovered that jeans were something that most women owned and wanted to wear but found it hard to buy. He spent the next three stores. "We are in the process of preparing to years, together with a small group of people, putting together the technology for Persocal Pair, as well as thinking how it would work io the store, in manufacturing and so on. Then he got in touch with Levi's, who showed interest in the idea and ran a test in the US in the spring of 1994; when that test proved successful, they

launched the scheme in America. It's taken another two years in bring it to Europe. De Bouvier explains that they wanted to see how the whole project continued in the US. 'As the success in the US increased and a lot more people heard about it, we started hearing rumours in the trade that it was something that was needed," he says, "and at that point we decided to launch here in Europe. We consider what we've launched in the store in London and in another Levi's Original store in Sheffield a test for the European market as well. It's a test of whether we have the right styles, what other colours and fabrics customers may want us to

.The idea for Personal Pair was triggered in do. So there will be a trial phase for about four For the momeot, Personal Pair is available far in the comments book at the two British add the black, and potentially other colnurs as well, as of next year," says De Bouvier.

At last it seems that the phrase "consumer choice" will start to mean something. And the concept could spread to other clothes. Someone in America is even doing an experiment with shoes. DeBouvier is optimistic: "It's poteotially the beginning of a whole new era. Every consumer wants to be seeo as an individual ... Personal Pair is one way to express that."

So it seems that from now on the biggest problem womeo will have in finding jeans that fit is deciding what to dn with the time they used to spend in changing rooms being told by Prof Higgins's disciples that their waist was "too small".

> The Personal Pair service is available at the Original Levi's Store, 174-176 Regent Street, London WI (0171-287 4559); and at 19 High Street, Meadowhall Centre. Sheffield (0114-256 8471). Call for appointments.

#### Shannon Ryan Nurse, 28

My jeans are by Just Jeans, I bought them in Australia, l'm quite pleased with these but I have a lot of trouble finding the right size. A lot of sizes stop at 14 and 1 need them bigger than that. I hate shopping stick to the same brand I've got two other pairs like this. I think the Levi's made-to-measure is a really good idea but it's too expensive, I wouldn't

pay as much as £50 for a pair of jeans. Claudia Southgate

My jeans are from Karen Millen and I'm quite happy with them. I've got a lot of jeans at home and I tend to go for the men's fit because I don't like the way that women's jeans taper in at the bottom. I've just bought some Levi's ladies fit but I'm not very keen on them. I love shopping but I don't often go shopping for jeans because it is a bit of a problem. I'd definitely pay £65 for jeans which fitted me perfectly.

Dain Tag Ex-Teacher, 47

I've got no idea what brand of jeans these are I don't like them though they're uncomfortable because they don't fit properly. I do have one other pair of jeans and like them but I have a great deal of trouble shopping for jeans, I don't like having to try on so many different pairs. I

Levi's I don't think it's too much money to pay because jeans do last for a

**Nathalie** Ellis

Student, 23

Claire Gervat

l like Katherine Hamnett Jeans, but usually it's impossible to find the right fit. I need them long in the leg and small in the waist but if I find the right length the hips are always too big or viceversa. I'll see a really nice pair in a shop but when I try them on I'm almost always disappointed because the legs are too short. I've got loads of pairs at home that I don't wear, I think the Levi's made-to-measure are a brilliant idea and I wouldn't mind paying the extra.

**Julie Vince** London Transport Museum, 31

These are Levi's 591s. I'm quite happy with them but enough in the leg. I've got at least two pairs at home which I don't wear, I buy jeans that are the right length but then find the cut very uncomfortable. I'd rather pay £65 for a pair of made-to-measure

jeans than pay less for another make that would sit at the bottom of my wardrobe.

Emma Moore

Art Student, 24

My jeans are from M&S, they're cut short in the leg and are a good fit. I'm quite small so
I have trouble finding jeans, they're either too
high-waisted or too long in the leg. I've got
about ten pairs at home which I don't wear, I
buy them thinking I like them and then discover they're all wrong. Buying jeans is a total nightmare which I avoid at all costs. The Levi's made-to-measure service sounds like a great idea, it's not too expensive since you only need one pair every two years.

Abigail Rayner

### .but which jeans really rule America?

pair during a working holiday in Western Mootana. I needed some oew jeans as my two pairs of standard-issue Levi's just weren't enough to keep me legged up amidst all the mud and manure. What could have been a nightmare, however, turned out to be an unexpected pleasure ooce I knew what to huy.

Here in Britain, we've been sold the myths and romanticism of the American West so often that we've come to expect it, despite the incongruity of it all. Lee claim to be the "genes that huilt America", whilst Levi's latest advertising glut includes glossy images of "original wearers" such as "Julius, 69, rancher, Colorado".

However, there's ooe brand that has carved out a unique place in rural America's workwear and fashion markets. Essectial cowboy and cowgirl artire these days includes a good pair of boots, a trusty set of spurs and a pair of Wraogler jeans. They're endemic in the US, and. are in many ways a symbol of the modern West, where the past meets the present and roping and branding sit quite comfortably alongside satellite dishes and

pick-up trucks. Today's Wranglers were



originally designed in 1947 by a chap called Rodeo Ben. They were also designed for a purpose, and with particular people in mind. It's all in the name.

The double-stitched seam was moved to the outside leg, to avoid painful chafing during long hours in the saddle. The bottoms were cut to fit over boots, and the legs were cut long to keep the jeans oo the boot whilst riding. This practical measure has become a point of fashioo too ankle-flapping Wranglers are oot de rigueur.

Since the mid-Seventies Wrangler have been the official jeans of professional rodeo riders. They're endorsed by champion bull-riders such as Ty Murray, and big-time stars of New Country such as George Strait. They're everywhere. Living amongst ranchers, ropers and the rodeo fraternity, I readily succumbed to the inevitability of what to buy and set off for a large Westernwear outlet, in Missoula, Montana, to get myself kitted out.

It's easy to get distracted from

the serious business of denim

acquisition in a place like Western Sportsman, There are glitzy outfits, belts, buckles and more checked shirts than you cao shake a stick at; boots galore, and plenty of hats and horse tack.

There were nther brands of jeans in the store. But the sheer range and volume of Wranglers was staggering. An alarmingly friendly assistant, with a big, silver-grey hairdo and a fringed Western dress, managed to seem as if she really cared and delivered practical advice like I've oever heard - "They'll shrink up maybe half an inch in the leg, honey, so go with long; we wear 'em long out here, you know". It's also reassuring that "out there", it doesn't matter how big you think your bottom is. They've always seen a higger one.

I left 20 minutes later, unflustered, less than \$30 poorer, and having undergone an enjoyable, distinctly Western and

totally painless experience. Back in Loodon, I can't wear my oew jeans for riding and wrangling, but that doesn't matter. And if in a year or so I need another pair, I'll gladly do the whole thing again.
Unfortunately, the £300 air ticket may just sour the thrill of it all,

Liza Millet

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The thing about...

# Dust



You are a male house dust mite. Somewhere oearby, in your little curl of goose feather, someone is giving off the most incredibly exciting smell. Your immediate response is to produce a handy bag of sperm and leave it lying about in the old pillow you call home.
You are a female house dust mite. What is that interesting smell? A bag of sperm? For me? You

shouldn't have. Raunchy scenes like this are played out in a shag pile near you each night – never more so than in autumn when the natioo's dust mite population begins to breed in unthinkable numbers to celebrate National Asthma Week

When did you last launder your pillow? The When did you last launder your pillow? The goose-down filling is only 90 per cent feathers. The other 10 per ceot? Dead skin, mould, mites, dead mites and dung. How do I know? A few moments with Dr John Maunder of the Medical Eotomology Centre and you, too, will be a mine of disgusting information. "If you have a feather pillow you've never washed, put it in the dustbin," he says. A new ooe, however, is fully washable. "It's a British Standard. Has been for 24 years." Standard. Has been for 24 years."

Mattresses, too, play host to vast populations of mites, their excreta bathed by the 45 gallons of moisture you lose each year during sleep. After vacuuming the mattress, cover it in a mite-proof sheet (£19.50 single, £24.50 double), and "never make a bed in the morning," advises Dr Maunder.
"Make the bed after lunch. Your grandmother

But she didn't vacuum the mattress, as the mite-conscious housewife is now urged to do. Ideally, from the manufacturer's point of view, she should use an expensive, maximum-filtration appliance. The National Asthma Campaign, however, is reluctant to recommend these. There is no scientific evidence that one vacuum cleaner is better than another."

Dr Maunder is a fresh air fanatic. "Open all your windows wide and leave them open." He is merciless in condemning those who imagine the air to be too polluted for children to breathe: "The child that sleeps in an unventilated room will find the room depleted of oxygen and filled with carbon dioxide, house dust mite dung and water vapour... The air quality in the average child's bedroom is so poor that if it were recorded in a factory the factory would be prosecuted." You have been warned.

**Louise Levine** 



#### Six of the best autumn coats

Three-quarter length camel coat, Choice, £59.99. Camel (or blond for those in the know) is still very much around. This coat is perfect for dressing up or down: good with jeans and a T-shirt or over a suit for the office. Choice, for oearest stockist call Freephone 0500 923923.

2. Swede-look three-quarter length coat, Morgan, £139.99.
Although not designed for Arctic temperatures, this jacket looks and feels gorgeous. The fake brushed suede looks huxurious without the hefty price tag of the real thing. Morgan, call 0171 436 5255.

Fleecy jacket, Next, £69.99.

Made from wonderfully Soft cream chenille (100 per cent polyester - but very convincing), this doublebreasted jacket with fleecy lining will keep you toasty in the gustiest autumn wind. Next, for oearest branch call 0116 284 9424; Next Directory, call 0345 100 500

Black velvet, Morgan, £99.89. With winter approaching There are sumptious fabrics in abundance and velvet is always a favourite. This jacket from can be worn with big lapels or all buttoned up like a duffle-coat. Morgan, for nearest branch call 0171 436 5255.

Fitted 'anorak' jacket, French Connection, £100. Zip up with this smart quilted jacket. The practical nylon quill' fabric will help keep the rain off and the fur collar adds a touch of glamour. French Connection, for nearest branch call 0171 580 2507.

Cleather jacket, ligsaw, £269.
From the top of the range on the High-Street comes this stunning antique-look leather jacket in chocolate brown - this season's key colour. The design is very 60s, and this retro edge, makes it a star buy. Jigsaw, for nearest branch call 0171 491 4484.





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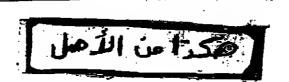
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# Commoners with nothing in common

One man's conservation is another's vandalism: Hamish Scott reports on a feud in Dorset

most unlikely battle-ground. Clinging to a steep hillside below the Dorset many ket town of Shaftesbury, the common is a hidden wilderness of willow herb and hazel thickets, with views across the Blackmore Vale that have scarcely altered since the days of Thomas Hardy. But like Hardy's

the days of Thomas Hardy. But like Hardy's Egdon Heath, the commoo has been the scene of bitter conflict – based on ancient rights, misunderstandings, prejudice and passion.

The prologue to the tale dates back to the medieval period, when most uncultivated land in England was still grazed as a commoo pasture, and tenants had the right to coppice wood and gather fuel from the manor's "wastes". By the 19th century this ancient system of land management had almost disappeared as enclosure acts were passed, allowing landowners to sure acts were passed, allowing landowners to hedge and subdivide the common fields. Richer farmers beoefited from the changes, but philanthropists and lovers of the countryside grew increasingly coocerned as England's open spaces were hedged in.
The survival of Breach Common - and indeed

of most of England's other common lands, from woods and heaths to village greens - owes much to a long and sometimes acrimonious campaign that in 1852 resulted in the first of many parliamentary acts curtailing new enclosures and clarifying rights of commooers. Today, oo landowner may erect a fence on commoo land without permission from the Minister of State in the Department of the Environment.

Uotil the 1950s, Breach Commoo served its age-old purpose. Commooers grazed cattle oo its opeo spaces, its hazel trees were coppiced, its ponds were regularly dredged. Wild flowers thrived and nightingales sang in the woods. In just 11 acres, a rich and varied pattern of ecology, was maintained by a belong between the cology. ogy was maintained by a balance between man's activities and nature.

Yet rural life and farming methods have changed drastically in 40 years. There are few small farmers left who still rely on common land for grazing; few hurdle-makers (despite the recent resurgeoce of this traditional craft) needing coppiced wood. Within a generation, Breach Common was a wilderness.

As in so many cases, the present conflict has its roots in good intentions. In 1994, local childreo oo a Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme



group, the Friends of Breach Common, who consulted with the local council, English Nature and other relevant authorities to draw up plans for long-term management. Surveys were initially helped clear litter from the common. This small disappointing. The good news was that all three

been so stifled by invasive weeds that the site could not be afforded the protective status of Site

of Special Scientific Interest.

initiative led to the formation of a conservation group, the Friends of Breach Common, who concommon, the bad news was the wild flowers had considered grazing livestock and investigated grants for cattle-grids and fences if the necessary permissions could be had. They planned f Special Scientific Interest. interpretative boards, parking sites and disabled access. They restored one of the silted ponds

changed drastically in the last 10 years

and opened up new paths. Unfortunately, they also cut down a sycamore.

Now a sycamore, to any conservationist, is scarcely worthy to be termed a tree, it is an invasive weed that stubbornly resists cradication and, most damningly of all, it is not a native species. But the sycamore concerned was rather liked by those who had grown used to its familiar pres-ence and were unversed in the niceties of eco-logical correctness. Much to their surprise, the Friends discovered they had enemies. An urgent public meeting was convened at which they found themselves challenged with an unexpected fury. The common, it transpired, was not owned by the council, Since all trace of title had been lost somewhere in the mists of time it was the commoners who should have been conspited. And although they had not grazed the land for 40 years, they alone retained this right.

There were fears of travellers and vandalism, resentment that a "natural wilderness" was to be tamed, and widespread opposition to fences being introduced. The Friends were asked, quite firmly, to be a little less pro-active.

This autumn, there are few signs of management apparent on Breach Common. The Friends still meet occasionally, clearing paths and cutting back the willow-herb, but the and cutting nack the winow-ners, nut the undergrowth is dense with Japanese knot-weed and sycamores. The majority of locals seem quite happy with the situation, preferring their apparently primeval wilderness to any managed ecological environment. But fire Julian Cross, one of the common's disillusioned Friends, the outcome is a cause of sadness and frustration. "What people do not realise is that without some form of management the land will get progressively more overgrown," he points nut. "Is the commoo so inviolable that no one can even cut a bean stick from the hazel coppice?"

Nature conservation is, at least in theory, a cause that few would disagree with, Unfortunately, as Breach Common demonstrates, the experts are not always in agreement with the public over quite what the management implies and, particularly on common land, their assumptions may be fiercely challenged. One man's conser-

### Pine Martens wanted — dead or alive

By Clive Fewins

volid

RE OFF

fox-like face and a striking creamy-yel- larly in Wales. low "bib" under its chin.

fruitless. From his base in Malvern, Dr Birks keeps tahs on the pine marten hunt, mainly conceotrated in Wales. Every time he gets a convincing report that a dead pine marten has been spotted on the road, one of his small network of volunteers goes out to investigate.

But to no avail. The elusive mammal - some say pine martens are extinct in this country outside Scotland - continues to evade him.

However, Dr Birks is not deterred. "The fact that we are getting so many be able to help improve their habitat." heartening," he said.

eartening," he said. cately examining them is not overly "From the quality of these sightings we gruesome. For four years he cut his teeth

Johnny Birks is looking for a body. It believe we are right in our conviction that on a similar project, tracking the advance must be at least two feet long, including the tail, have glossy brown fur, a martens exist outside Scotland, particularly wales. Much valuable evidence for that

> since the Victorian and Edwardian days of trapping and shooting, because of reforestation and a reduction in persecution. However, both these factors exist in England and Wales and there are plenty of hilly, craggy areas, especially in Wales, which provide just as good a habitat as forest. Yet they appear to he doing badly here. If only we could trace these pockets in Wales and in the areas in the northern half of England where we believe pine martens exist, then we might

good quality reports of sightings - 15 in To Dr Birks the task of picking shatthe first eight months of this year - is tered animal bodies off roads and intri-

study was gained through sightings of We think that pine martens have bodies From these, Dr Birks was able to For the past year the search has been returned in such numbers in Scotland establish the recolonisation patterns of

this other elusive oative mammal. Not that there are any signs of pine martens recolonising. Indeed the main object of Dr Birks' study is to discover wby the species has been doing so badly outside Scotland.

He plans to operate in much the same way as he did with the polecat study, tracking the animals' incidence through sightings of dead and alive specimens and reporting back to his employers, the London-based Vincent Wildlife Trust, for whom he will eventually produce a report.

Finding a body is not the only means of senger, has been working on baining sta- whether it belongs to a pine marten.



tions - tunnels with a lure at the end. As

the animal exits after grabbing the lure, a Sweeter, herbier and less offensive than proving the pine marten exists in England small piece of hair is removed. This can those of the polecat, these, too, cao be and Wales. Dr Birks' colleague, John Mes- be examined under a microscope to check analysed. Yet Dr Birks feels that he and John Messenger are now getting so

close to their first definite Welsh sighting that they will probably not have to resort to searching for scats.

"The pine marten is part of the British natural heritage," Dr Birks added. "And now that persecution has ceased and they are highly protected, we ought to try harder to accommodate them. Like polecats, badgers, foxes and red squirrels, they have been here cootinuously since the last great Ice Age - it is important that we should try to encourage them. It is frightening that we know so little about pine martens. And at present, we can't get close enough to them to find out more."

> Reports of possible signtings in England and Wales should be made to Dr Birks at 3, Knell Cottages, Harcourt Road, Malvern WRI3 5PS (01684 575876) or John Messenger at 16, Ithon Close, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1688 (01597 825536)

### Twentieth-century foxes — and a hedgehog

Dicking the last of the black-berries, high oo the side of our hill, I looked out over the valley and wondered where summer hod gone. So quickly did the season brew up and depart that the whole year seems to have been foreshortened.

The reasoo was surely the lateness of spring, which took an age to arrive. For weeks a hitter, dry, north-east wind kept blowing out of Siberia, so that grass and vegetables would not grow; and when warm weather did come in at last, nature had to perform in double-quick time in order to catch up.

Now that frost has started to turn the leaves, it is hard to remember how blazingly hot the summer became. It is difficult to believe that 90-degree temperatures rendered our south-facing terrace uninhabitable, and that in the middle of the day we had to keep out of the sun.

Yet we have tangible proof of the heat in the form of first-class hay, piled to the roof of the barn. By a stroke of luck, the crop was late: we had run sheep on the ground earlier, and the field was not ready to cut until early July. Then a long-range forecast told everyone that the next week was the ooe to go on holiday, because no cloud was going to enter the sky for the next six days.



#### **DUFF HART-DAVIS**

So it proved. Normally haymaking is a time of high anxiety: one watches the charts and the sky day and night, willing rain to stay away. No such problem this time. We cut the grass on a Monday, and by Thursday it had haked to that beautiful, silvery, grey-green colour which signifies perfection.

The heat also put fire into our solitary fig tree, which produced as never before. Several times I tried to count the fruit, and made the total well over 200, most of them out-and-out thumpers.

Later came huge crops of hlackberries and hazelnuts although, as usual, squirrels hit the nuts before they were ripe. Whenever I walked up the lane, I could hear the brutes chewing and rustling in the canopy overhead, and the road was carpeted

with spat-out shells. One major disappointment was

the performance of the fungi. face below them. The first cub Whit the ground baked to such a would snatch up a bone and temperature, I felt confident that make a dash with it for the hedge the first rain would produce a ter- above. Then the other cub would rific upsurge of mushrooms. A few materialise and start eating, only did pop up, but oothing like the numbers I had hoped for. Puff-darker parent, silently emerging balls were another story: at ooe point on the side of a hill 11 appeared in a dead-straight line, spaced as regularly as a typographer's dots. A cameraman with a zoom lens could easily have

space capsules had landed. And yet, for all its eccentricities of wind and weather, the summer. of '96 will remain for us the summer of the foxes. Forget Four Weddings and a Funeral. Our private show, Four Foxes and a Hedgehog, came on at sun-down every evening for weeks on end, always enlivened by unforesecable innovations.

The principal players were two fox cubs, born and brought up in the wood above our fields, ably supported by their pareots, with at least Ooe hedgehog showing stroogly in a roll-on part. As soon as my wife began putting out food at the top of the garden, we were ensured of a sparkling.

nightly cabaret. As dusk came on, a pair of sharply-pointed ears would year - but while it lasted, it was appear heyood the sheep-feoce, magic, and certainly far hetter with an inquisitive, dark-snouted than any film.

from the lane.

Soon the paddock would be full of foxes flitting in all directions up, down, sideways - vanishing and looming up again like wisps of tawny smoke. The dialogue coosisted entirely of appalling screeches, so blood-curdling as to proved that a convoy of alien suggest murder in progress - but observation showed that the screams were merely threat and bravado, delivered by the cubs with ears laid back, at a safe distance from anyooe else. The hedgehog, meanwhile, would carry on its own affairs in the wings, chuntering about the lawn beneath the washing-line.

While all this was in progress, we would watch entranced, from no more than 20 yards away. Provided we kept still, the show would continue without interruption until it was too dark to see.

Now the family has dispersed; and although the night is still rent by occasional shricks, oobody comes to feed as the light goes down. The show is over for the

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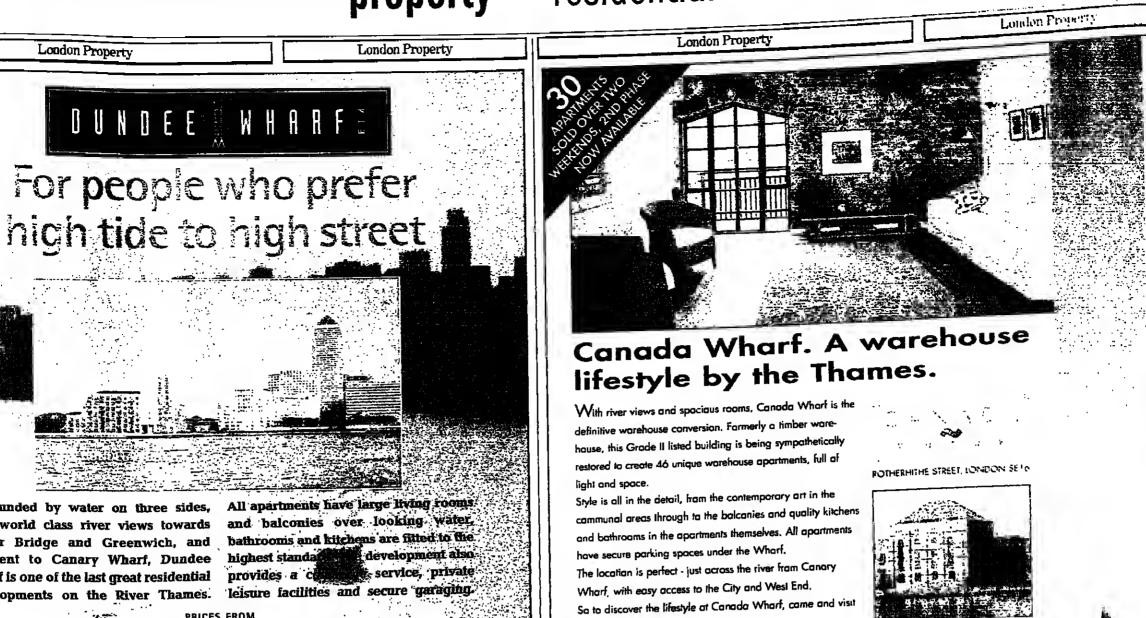
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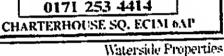
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# Boats and houses share a river outlook

A new development along the Thames is combining the interests of houseboat owners and landlubbers. By Penny Jackson

n the tiny bathroom, the head of a swan suddenly pops through the window, perfectly encircled by the port hole.

Alison Taylor helieves this should be a model for all Thames developments. "We want to encircled by the port hole. Some hread is pushed its way, and then back to the sink.

Life in the Taylors' houseboat on the Thames is far from ordinary, yet it is one they would not swap for solid ground.

As housing developments have sprung up along the river, those who live on the Thames have felt themselves to be increasingly vulnerable. There are no laws protecting the rights of bouseboat owners and some developers take a dim view of the hotchpotch of river craft moored in front of their upmarket homes. Yet the Taylors' experience shows that there can be a meeting of

Five weeks ago they moved their converted coal barge on to spanking new moorings provided by a developer. Until the regeneration of the Chiswick site at Corney Reach, their boat was moored alongside an industrial wasteland. Now, instead of look-ing on to a derelict warehouse and open land, they have a view of three, quite different, developments.

We miss all that space, though. We used to have wonderful bonfire parties there," laughs Alison Taylor. "But we were prepared for the changes, and Hounslow, who owned part of the land, involved us from the

Indeed, it is the enlightened approach taken by the local authority that has enabled the seven resident boats to remain at Corney Reach. When Hounslow council sold its site to Ideal Homes, now part of Persimmon, it insisted that they provide a community huilding, a public pier, moorings and access to the foreshore. A trust - the Corney Reach Development Trust - was opers hold the key, but the impeset up to manage the facilities tus oeeds to come from the plan-

courage a real mixture here, so munity. Certainly there is that people can take trips on the nothing of John Gummer's river, use their own boats, explore the foreshore. It is not enough just to construct a river walkway." Mrs Taylor, who is education officer of the Thames Explorer Trust, runs study groups from the community building, and there can he few people who know the Thames as well.

Seventeen years ago she and her husband Mike, a BBC film editor, bought an old Humber barge and set about making it their home. They are still expanding into new areas of the boat. The wheelhouse has just become a dining room; part of the engine room is earmarked as a bedroom for their daughter, Lisa. Their son, David, swings on to a shallow platform bed that was once Thames want the river to be a refuge from the chaos below.

"We did everything ourselves and the first few years were very difficult. I can remember going into labour and having to crawl around under plastic sheeting hecause Mike was fixing the roof," says Alison.

"It wasn't always easy having small children on a boat. We hadto have very strict safety rules. And there were times when I would have loved to have had a is not the same as a bathroom door and a garden, instead of a hatch." But the early years of discomfort are long gone. "It can get too warm now. Its like living in a steel box, lined and panelled. I'm always throwing open the portholes," she replies to the pre-dictable question, "but isn't it cold in winter?"

What has not changed over the years is the Taylors' affection for the river, which is why they want to see a revival of the life on it, oot just beside it. Devel"executive ghetto" about the place. An open view of the Thames cuts through the heart of

the buildings.
It is a difficult balance to achieve. There will always be those who wish to live behind security gates. But the principle of public access to the Thames has meant miles of new walkways, from the Docklands to the upper reaches of the Thames. At Battersea, Berkeley Homes' Riverside Plaza hopes to attract non-residents with a bealth club, restaurant, wine har and offices on the development. And as for life on the water, Paul Vallone, sales and marketing manager, thinks people who buy along the more than just a sterile backdrop. "Not oil tankers all day, perhaps, but they don't mind a few tatty

barges."
Further up the Thames, at
Delta's Richmond Bridge development on the ice rink site, £13m-worth of property has been sold since the latest phase of homes was launched a week ago.

But however magnificent a development, a flat with a view with a porthole. "The sun bounces off the river, and with the steam rising you get this ethereal light effect," says Alison Taylor. And the swans? "We had to put up with one that would suddenly poke its head through the porthole and hiss at you."

> Richmond Bridge sales centre 0181-744 0113; Persimmon Homes, Comey Reach - Allen Briegel 0181-742 7477; Berkeley Homes, Riverside Plaza 0171-801



At home on the river: Alison, Mike, Lisa and David Taylor

Ampney Crucis, Cirencester

Househunter

nyone longing to live in a Apuh may be interested to hear that The Butchers Arms, on the edge of the village of Ampney Crucis, Circneester. Gloucestershire, is for sale. It . has permission granted for conversion back to residential use. The Cotswold stone house has a late-Victorian red-brick extension and, at present, four bedrooms and one bathroom. The har downstrurs could be removed to give a drawing room, dining room, large kitchen/breakfast ronm and sitting room. There are views over farmland and a good-sized garden and a paddock. Price guide £195,000, through Juhn D Wood (19285 642244).

#### For what it's worth

Apersonality clash between Abuyers and sellers is a cause of almost 10 per cent of the deals that break down, says Knight Frank. Vendors are upset by havers who dither: huyers resent people who sell a home knowing it to have problems. They suggest that owners get a pre-survey done, to give early warning of any pitfalls.

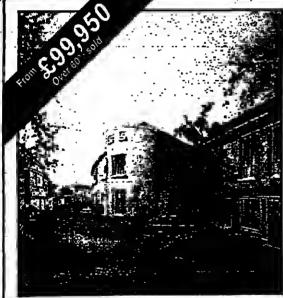
Sellers can be as indecisive as buyers, says Winkworth. At the first sign of trouble they withdraw their property from the market - or refuse even to put it up for sale until their offer is accepted on a new home. Not surprisingly, life is easier when someone huys after having rented. In South Kensington, Winkworth sells up to 10 per cent to those reoting; in Kensington (swelled by overseas huvers) 50 per cent, and in Streatham, 50 per cent of those selling start by renting. Most people in this area are moving from flats to family houses, where there is the greatest shortage.

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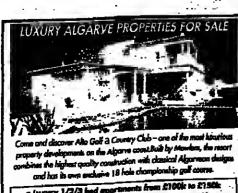
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### How to become the proud owner of a slice of Europe

Photograph: Kik Strangelove

Advice on buying property abroad is at hand. By Geoffrey Pilgrem

British agents offering "resort homes abroad" no longer force a smile when asked "How's business?" After six years of stagnation, the market is improving.

The upturn is spread around the traditional areas of interest, according to The Federation of Overseas Property Developers. Agents & Consultants. These being the Algarve, the Spanish costas and the Riviera; the Canaries and the islands of the Med; the French and Italian countrysides; and the ski slopes of the Pyrenees and the Alps. Interest in Florida is also increasing.

The recession stemmed the stream of free advice in the media about buying a home for pleasure another country. Most of it was elementary, repetitive, and sadly neces buy a snip from a bloke you meet in a bar, even if he's the soo of an archhistop and has become your lifelong huddy after the third drink.

More sophisticated advice urged careful thought about where and how you wanted to live. In which area of which country? On a coast or inland? How easy is access by road, rail, sea and air? Holiday or permanent use? An apartment? A villa, however defined? An ancient farmhouse maybe? A penthouse with the necessary huilt-in security? And don't forget to add the necessary percentage for local taxes and legal fees

to your price limit. Throughout the Seventies and Eighties, exposure to advice was difficult to avoid. Owning a home overseas for fun became a normal expectation for the successful and the lucky. Upwards of 300,000 British couples bought a piece of Europe during those two decades. They were all educated by the media to exercise reasocable caution. Those who got it wrong had either throughout south-west neglected their homework. France are again picking up.



tor. Or they'd simply picked the wrong place.

But during the past six years media coverage of the overseas property market has been thin. And the handbooks nn the subject are out of print and out of date. So most of today's generation of prospective buvers are starting from scratch. With rare exceptions, they are also first time buyers abroad. Short of an expensive Grand Tour, how can they educate themselves?

An international property show with a wide choice of varied locations provides the opportunity for an economical crash course. And there's one handy next weekend, if you are within reach of London's West End. at The Cumberland Hotel at Marble Arch. We have around 50

exhibitors," said show organiser Ian Dougall, "offcring thousands of homes in hundreds of locations. They're all experts on their preferred areas and they're all looking forward to an even better year in 1997. We even have lawyers and international removals people on hand."

A selection of exhibitors have optimism in common. "There's increased interest in all our locations," said Heleoa Bailey of Knight Frank. "The Costa del Sol, The Riviera, Tuscany...

Islay Currie, of Currie Freoch Properties in Cambridge, reports that sales of handsome old rural houses

Michael Carpenter of Prime Property International of Maidenhead said: "Demand is beginning to exceed supply for luxury villas on the Algarve, although there's still a stock of middle-range property at competitive prices. Adrian Meed of European Villa Sales, Camhridge agrees, adding: are dusting off their shelved masterplans and are again digging footings." On the Costa Blanca, three- or fourbedroom furnished villas with pools are selling stendily at around £175,000 according to Peter Mustafa of Juan Porcellanes "But," he adds, "recession hargains are becoming scarce"

In the Orlando area of Florida, rental income motivates the British, says Graham Green of Ruislip-hased International Property Group. A three-bedroom, two-hathroom house with a pnol could he yours for around £85,000.

At the property show you can pick brains, check locations, compare attractions and study specific properties. And it'll he safe to talk houses with anyone you may meet in the har.

> The international property show takes place at The Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1 nn Friday 11 October 12-6pm, and Saturday and Sunday 12 and 13 October

#### AFRICA: START HERE

alf a day south of London, and three hours' drive across the parched, scraggy veldt, there is a zebra crossing. Wait quietly in your rental car and in a moment its stripey friends and relations will trot across the track, too. Sinuous giraffe, stumpy wildebeest and rhinos the size of small houses share South Africa's Pilanesburg National Park with each other and with

tourists such as your jet-lagged self. African wildlife has never been easier to meet. The competition that is growing on flights to South Africa means fares to Johannesburg and Cape Town are falling. This week Virgin Atlantic began flying Heathrow-Johannesburg, next month Britannia begins charters from Gatwick to South Africa's largest city and Cape Town.

The rest of Africa is also opening up to the traveller. Nairobi is £300 away, aboard Sudan Airways via Khartoum, and not very much more on less flamboyant airlines. The Kenyan capital is base camp for more intensive - and expensive safaris than a day out in Pilanesburg.

Hang on, though: what about the corrosive impact of tourism on the environment and the people? Certainly the treatment of Kenya's Masai Mara, displaced from their homelands in the name of tourism, has been shameful. And the sight of a dozen safari vehicles converging on a family of lions makes you fret about the way that the Travel Empire has conquered the Animal Kingdom. But tourism has been less damaging than some other forms of exploitation, and a positive force for preservation in

many parts of Africa.

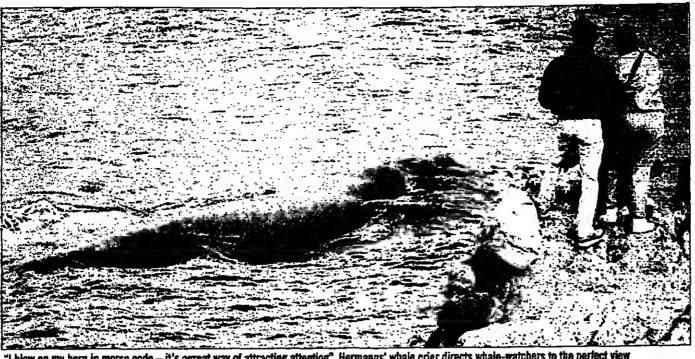
Moving north, Egypt has
enjoyed or endured tourism for centuries. And has the art of prospering from visitors down to a fine piece of theatre. As Jack Barker explains opposite.

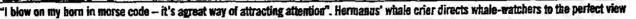
Whether you are satisfied with a donkey ride to the Valley of the Kings or crave the sight of a whale to crown the hig five land mammals, now is the moment to visit Africa. Just remember to stop if you see a zehra crossing.

Simon Calder

# Watch out for the end of the whale

Hermanus is South Africa's whale-watching capital. By Guy Perry







Elnas to end. But in the small coastal resort of Hermanus - an hour's drive east of Cape Town - Peter Claesen is stopped by passers-by and actually quizzed about CAPE PROVINCE The world's first and only known whale crier, Peter has one mission - to publicise the day's early sightings of win-Cape of good hope ter breeding whales so that watchers know where to head for the best viewing. ANDIAN OCEAN 40 miles

t's not often you take notice of sand-

wich boards - unless your interests lie

in golf sales, leather jacket offers or

predictions of when the world's going

While generally dispensing information

on his mobile phone, he often reverts to

tooting on a horn which he has fashioned

from the kelp lying in tangled mounds on the seashore near his fishing cottage: "I

blow on my horn in morse code - it's a

great way of attracting attention, but no

one seems to understand the messages!"

the country's first leper colony, has now become the whale-watching capital of

Hermanus, once famous for being

his sandwich board.

South Africa, and holds its owns arts jamboree, the Whale Festival, every September, Because of its excellent clifftop viewing, the town has become the focal point for the MTN Cape Whale Route, a small but influential promotional and educational body launched in February. It has already established dozens of information boards at view-

Whale Wavs

There is plenty of choice for flights to South Africa from Virgin Atlantic to Britannia charters that start next

Useful numbers: Whale Hotline (in South Africa) 0800 228 222; Whale Crier 083 212 1074; Greg Vogt, MTN Cape Whale Route 083 212 1270 or at Brenton on Sea Hotel 0445 810081; Western Cape Tourism Board, 021 418 3705; e-mail wctbcape@iafrica.com

ing points - the first established in the sleepy but charming resort of Still Bay and has set up a Whale Hotline to give hourly updates on where whales can be spotted. The body boasts that South Africa possesses "the world's best land-based whale watching". Few would dispute the claim, least of all between June pute the claim, least of all between June best to protect the whales but if you get and January when huge groups (known idiots going up to them in rubber 'ducks'

as "pods") of whales can often be observed swimming only metres away from the shore, and "breaching" spectacularly as they surge up and crash down like thunder into the sea. Most of the time, however, they loll around on the surface "spouting" (blowing unpleasantly surface "spouting" (blowing impleasantly smelly water vapour into the air) and "spy-hopping" (poking their heads out of the water to look around) or, more impressively, "fluking" (lifting their tails into the air before diving).

Whereas boat-based whale watching has become highly organised in centres.

has become highly organised in centres like Kaikoura in New Zealand, South Africa is taking the opposite approach. Laws forbid boats from getting within 300 metres of whales. Transgressors face jail sentences of six years, though the government's Sea Fisheries Office admits that it lacks the manpower to patrol the coastline adequately. One of its officers at Still Bay, Cunny Jones, is worried: "We try our

(dinghies) when our backs are turned. there's very little we can do."

Photographs: (left) Photo Holler (right) Glynis van Rooye

Southern Right whales were the first of the large whales to be protected in South Africa, in 1935, and conservation hadies are anxious that the 37 species of whales and dolphins found in Southern African waters are not exploited. Greg Vogt, the charismanic chairman of the MTN Cape Whale Route, arguest "You've got to remember that Southern Rights were harded to virtual extinction, and they're only slowly making a cometack."

Many whale watchers support moves to add whales to the country's "Big Five" top game animals (currently lions, elephants, rhino, leopards and buffalo). Charlie Apples, a visitor from London, was bitten by the whalewatching bug: "The Kruger Park is very impressive and very commercialised, but it's so much nicer to get close to the whales here. You feel that you can sometimes reach out and

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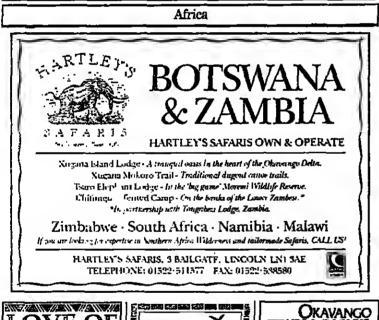
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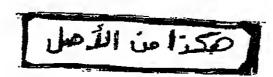
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Arramogniant.



Margaret Bradley treks through Namibia's Fish Canyon

ver two-and-a-half days, 74mm of rain fell in the Fish River Canyon – a whole year's rainfall. The gravel road was covered with treacherous drifts of sand deposited by ephemeral rivers; part of the lane leading to the canyon itself was washed away and the airstrip was filled with fissures created by swift flowing floods.

Worried and apolngetic because of the state of the much lane, the manager of the Common for the control of the state.

of the rough lane, the manager of the Canyoo Nature Park rang to warn us that the camp could only be reached in a 4x4. But we were delighted by the unseasonal storm for, though the Fish River itself was no longer running wheo we arrived, water was still cascading down the creeks and seeping through the Canyoo

floor to replenish the permanent pools.

We drove down to base camp across mile after mile of high desert and scrub savannah. At regular iotervals, interspersed with the huge oests of sociable weaver birds, we passed pale chanting goshawks nn the telegraph poles, watching for prey. At ground - grew fat succulents, southern Africa's.

answer to the cactus. Some 110 miles from the town of Keetmaoshoop, invisible until you are almost oo top of it, the Fish River Canyoo is a buge tear in the face of the earth. In the mists of geological time, a sea bed was lifted miles above the level of the ocean and weathered into ranges of table mountains. Then some 500 million years ago, a fault opened up among them. Wideoed by glaciation and altered by more faults and wind erosioo, canyons withio canyons were formed until 50 millioo years ago a river began to flow down them. Now 100 miles loog and up to 16 miles wide, this oatural wooder is second only to the Grand six hours' round trip away, or from Windhoek. Canyoo as a gouge io the globe.



A bushman of Namibia surveys the territory — a continuous map of wildlife

Every year the Ministry of Environment and Tourism allows a limited number of hikers to spend five days walking 53 miles of the canyon's meanders - from the Main View Point opposite Hell's Comer to the hot springs at Ai Ais. First they must produce a recent doctor's certificate, as the only way to hring in medical aid is by helicopter from Windhoek, the capital, 700km away. level - amongst sand and quartzite boulders And they must carry with them all their equipment, from tents to food and cooking utensils.

Wanting more comfort, we opted for a newly opened alternative, the camp at the Canyoo Nature Reserve, which has been set up by Lex Van Den Bosch, a Dutch biologist and tour guide, and his partner Loes Bolle. Seven guest tents and his partner Loes Bolle. Seven guest tents have been permanently pitched on stone bases along the very edge of the canyon with a view across miles and miles of fissures, gorges, hanging valleys and plateaux to a range of table mountains beyond. Everything is clean and simple, from the latrines to the solar heated bucket showers - simple, that is, for the guests: Lex and Loes have had to buy every item of building material, furniture and food from Keetmanshoop, some

direction of South Africa's gold fields. It had a striking effect, for the fields looked as if they were resting on the brink of the world and dim-The evening of our arrival, just after the sun ming the stars all night.

The next day, we set off along the lip of the canyon, following tracks of Hartmann's mountain zebra and curly horned kndn. We saw the tiny, twin boof prints, no bigger than a pair of 5p coins, of the klipsprioger and skirted its latrines - a klipspringer and his mate may use the same place to defecate over many years. Sometimes we startled kestrels, which rose from their look-out rocks and wheeled with motionless wings ever higher and higher on the desert By late afternooo we had reached a large,

permaneot pool in the river bed, flanked by a wide sandy beach, and a thicket of acacia trees. As the overhanging precipices were beginning to glow dusky pink in the sunset, Lex and Loes unlocked a stooe box and took out cooking equipment, sleeping hags and tents, which we each set up on the sand in the position we thought would give us the best morniog view.

We were oot disappointed. At sunrise the cliffs turned to gold and, gloriously out of place in this usually parched wilderness, a cormorant dived for catfish in the pool.

We began our return journey over a plateau

of black limestone eroded into strange dimples that looked like egg trays for a dolls' hnuse. Then we crossed a plain of red-brown quartzite where, io the sandy gaps - startled into life by the unseasonable rains - the pointed, curled

leaves of a bulh were sprouting.

Towards the head of the valley, we came across strange, stunted plants adapting to desert life, and camel thorn trees, which seemed to reach out for nur clothes with their long, grey, skeletal spikes, "Take nothing but pleasure and leave onthing but footprints in the desert," the Namibians say. Apart from a few torn clothes, we did just that - and loved every

> The only flights betweenLondon and Windhoek are operated by Air Namibla (0181-The current lowest fareis £651 (including

for a minimum stay of 10 days, maximum

months. For more information contact the Namiblan Tourist Office, 6 Chandos Street, LondonW1M OLQ (0171-636 2924).

### A return donkey to the Valley of Kings

Jack Barker avoids the crowds in Egypt — and meets a Casanova

The best way of getting to the Valley of the Kings is the way of the ancients; by donkey. The deal was sewn up within 10 minutes of our arrival in Luxor. Our botelier's soo, laid-back and very young, produced a visitor's book, stuffed with recommendations.

Almost all were fulsome in their praise, and raved about the donkey trip to the Valley of the Kings. Most said "Make sure you get Mohammed". One said "Avoid Mohammed at all costs: he is slimy and ignorant". Since half the population of Egypt seem to be share this name, the advice could have been more specific. But at only £4 a head for a day tour

it hardly seemed worth bargaining.
The next morning the hotelier's son took us to the river. He planted us on a tourist boat - included in the overall price. I'd been assured - and the fat captain immediately introduced the concept of the enormous tip he was expecting on the way back. Blankinghis persistent wheedling, I looked out over the blue waters of the Nile as we chugged across. Luxor is a city divided. We had left the west

bank, the city of the living, with the impos-ing straight in power surges as he doggedly ing temple of Karnak, and were heading for picked his way up the slope and found a route

harsh landscape of rock and sand. The east bank didn't look especially dead: it was heaving with a tourist industry starved of tourists and it was some relief to have a guide to drag us through the touts. We were quickly slipped beyond the crowds and introduced to our mounts. Their names, apparently, were Casanova (for me) and Chocolate (for my wife). And we met Mohammed.

He was a chiselled Arab in his middle sixties who convincingly claimed to have fought on our side in the Second World War, catering division. Our donkeys were lithe, healthy beasts - although worryingly small. Quickly we trotted towards the hills, smil-

ing bravely at passing coaches. After a mile or so we came to the defaced glares of the Colossi of Memnon and stopped for a coffee to catch our breath before heading nff up a steep donkey path.

Casanova only stood four foot tall with his ears up but my respect grew for his legs, lock-

through the mountains. We progressed along narrow paths over terrifying chasms, deep into a biblical landscape of sunblasted rock. From the seat of our donkeys we looked down oo world-famous sites. Salesmen bearing scarabs appeared from under rocks and strolled casually up on collisioo courses but Casanova knew his route and brushed them aside.

Windhoek 🔳

SOUTH

ATLANTIC

OCEAN

NAMIBIA

had set leaving a streak of yellow and duck egg blue to the west, the full mooo rose from the

150 miles

Keetmanshoop

Fish River

SOUTH

Finally we crested a mountain to look down on the signposted paths of the Valley of the Kings. In the distance, flocks of tourists flooded around the best tombs. Donkeys are kept well clear, and we scrambled down on foot.

Any politeness to the guards lurking in the depths of the ancient tombs led to a request for money and within minutes my small change had run out. The last few tombs were seen in a purse-lipped meanness, proof against further demands on my wallet.

It was a relief to climb back up the mountain to find Mohammed. While we caught our breath, he protectively bargained down the price of a Coke nn our behalf. Then we crossed the mnuntains towards the irrigated green smudge of the Nile Valley.

As we threaded along the banks of irrigation canals towards the road, I started to plan Casanova's reward. When we hit the Tarmac I stopped at a roadside stall to buy a bunch of bananas for my tireless steed. As I stood there bargaining, Mohammed hit Casanova on the haunches. I turned, clutching a hand of bananas, to see my donkey pelting nff down a sidetrack.

You can't park a Sierra that easily. And it turned out Mohammed liked bananas.

The Brooke Clinic for sick animals has a hospital in Luxor, and suggests all visitors refuse to hire unhealthy donkeys. This consumer pressure has improved the health of all livestock used in the tourist trade. To get to Luxor you need a visa for Egypt: contact the Egyptian Consulate-General, 2 Lowndes Street, London SW1X 9ET (0171-235 9777) for more information, and check with the Foreign Office (0171-238 4503) for the latest travel advice for the region. Charter flights direct to Luxor operate through companies such as Tradewinds (01706 260000) or Thomson (0990 502399). Expect to pay around £250 for

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# Young, single and dangerous. The language of snowboards

Snowboarders aren't like normal skiers

resorts from the descriptions in this season's brochures from Inghams Travel. The first is "Ideal for all skiers. It stretches

alone - a spectacular valley - and has developed into a large popular resort whilst still retaining an intimate, friendly atmosphere".

The second "is party central. It kicks off early and finishes early (in the morning) and gets pretty large in the middle. If you go to three different bars every night, you'll still have left half of them for your next visit... the atmosphere is kicking."
The answers are: Les Deux Alpes, and Les

Deux Alpes. The resort has stayed the same, only the brochure has changed. The first description comes from Ski Inghams' traditional 250-page reference work, illustrated with little snapshots of chalets, kids on toboggans and adults in brightly coloured skiwear pointing at something in the distance. The second appears opposite a full-page action shot of Les Deux Alpes in The Edge, a new magazine-style brochure from Inghams, the first big tour operator to offer "the full-on snowboard experience".

As the Good Skiing Guide 1997 rather alarmingly accepts, snowboarding is "here to stay: only a sporting Luddite can continue to maintain that it is a passing fad that has already peaked". Those who work in the inter-sports business" - they're learning with difficulty, to avoid referring simply to "skiing" - have accepted this with more enthusiasm. It is difficult to gauge accurately how much of the business comes from snowboarding. Andrew Russell, assistant to the chief executive at Inghams, would only guess that it was the brochure (the others are Sony Playstation, "less than 10 per cent" for his company. But which provides the in-chalet entertainment, and

Skiing Holidays

"Spot the produced a 10-page snowboard-only booklet Resort". All sat year (and is considering doing something you have to invite the season). And why Inghams has

now gone a step further.

The problem with trying to embrace snowboarders is that, for them, it's like being kissed by their parents. No way. A reader of Onboard magazine wrote in last month's issue about how "bitter" she is that "the sking industry is now accepting snowboarding

purely because... they want to cash in".

Snowboarders like being different from skiers. They dress differently, in loose "street" clothes: the literature of snowboarding is marked by a disdain for skiwear, particularly the tight, floral-print one-piece. They talk differently, too: the term "stem christie" is as foreign to them as their "rail slide" is to skiers. (The Edge hetpfully defines the latter, in its "Wozzat mean?" section for the inexperienced snowboarder, as "you ollie up and turn sideways to slide the edge of the board along a railing".) They are young, single and – as any middle-aged skier will tell you – dangerous.

So what *The Edge* does is take the snow-boarders' side in the argument. The holidays

it offers are in chalets exclusively for snowboarders because, as the brochure asks in its opening paragraph, "do you want to eat your dinner listening to some bloke in a polo-neck moaning about how the hire shop must have waxed his skis wrongly because he can't carve a right turn properly?"

After snowboarding action shots, the brochure gives the greatest prominence to the nightlife in the 10 resorts featured because. according to Inghams' Andrew Russell, who is responsible for The Edge, "what snowboarders do at night is as important to them as what they do during the day". Meeting snowboarders' needs also involves a "drag count" of button lifts in each resort, because they are no fun on a snowboard; stocking the chalets "with the latest boards from K2, one of three sponsors of

Skiing Holidays

Swatch watches); and lining up "Celebrity Clin-

ics" with eight top snowboarders.

Lest there be any doubt that it is talking their kind of language, The Edge is full of snowboarders' expressions: if riders are not hooning around they are usually going seriously big. The Edge goes seriously big on irony. ously big. The Edge goes seriously big on irony. On evening entertainments it says: "Scrabble and weak lemon drink evenings will be laid on, as well as outings to the local folklore museum. There will be no beer, drinking games, staying out late at nightchubs, meeting cute guys or girls, larging off at Germans..."

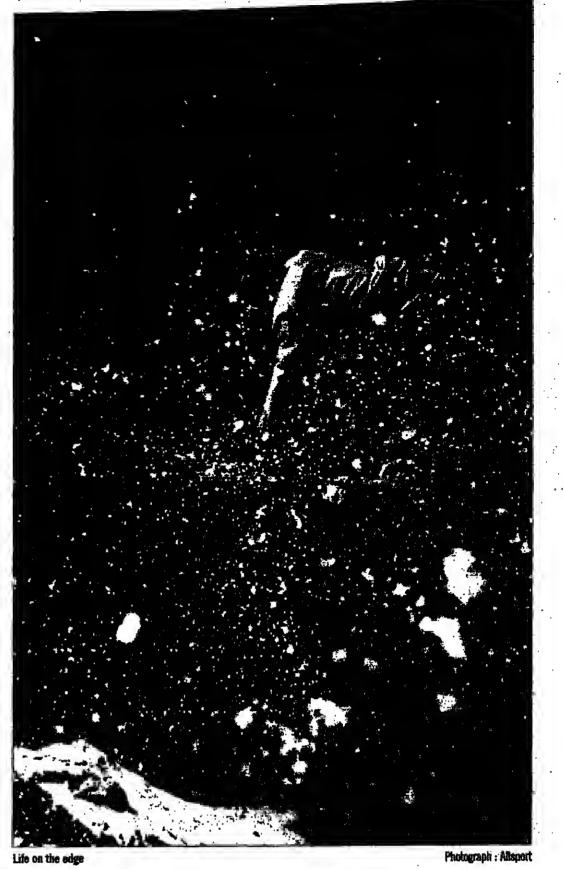
Although its editorial ambition is high, the brochure's commercial ambition is less so. A total of about 1,800 holidays are on offer, the Incharms group as a whole expects to sell

the Inghams group as a whole expects to sell more than 100,000 this season. But Andrew Russell says: "The Edge is an investment for the future: I think there's a gap in the market, and we're going some way towards fill-ing it." Judging by sales so far, he is fairly confident of its success.

But does The Edge convince the snow-boarding community? Eddie Spearing, pub-lisher and editor of Snowboard UK magazine (call it "Suk" when you're with snowboarders, but not in W H Smith's), was quite complimentary. "It's a bit corny, a bit mainstream - but that's because they're trying not just but that's because they're trying not just to appeal to the existing snowboard market but also to bring in new people." His only major criticism was of the photography, which in snowboarding magazines is sensational. "Look at the photograph of Les Deux Alpes: it's terrible, and very badly reproduced. And it must be eight years old... look at the floral one piece suit." at the floral one-piece suit.

Perhaps I'm not getting the joke, but that does seem a bit of an own goal. Because on the previous page The Edge is making the familiar jibe about the "horrible flowery one-

Because of a transcription error, the opening hours given for the SnowDome (0990 000011) on 21 September were incorrect; they are 9am-11pm every day



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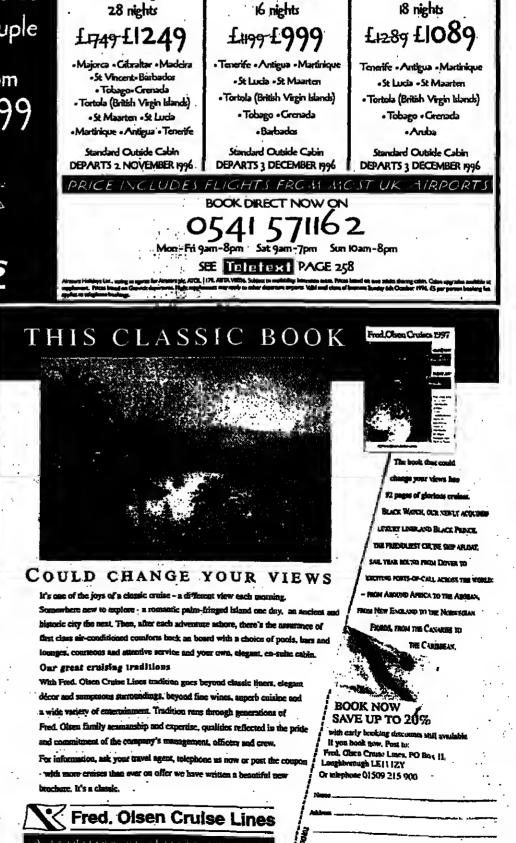
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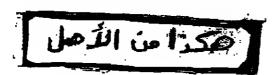
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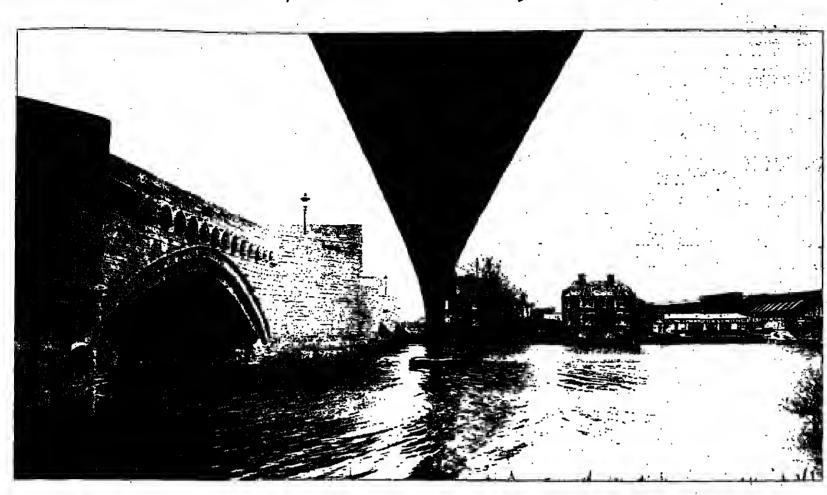
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# A town of real thatchers

As the Tories head Bournemouth, Teresa Allen visits John Major's constituency



untingdon is a place of wartime memories, passionate regional-ism, rural regeneration and Stiltou cheese. Its political heritage includes Oliver Cromwell as well as John Major. Its first Earl, one William Clintoo (possibly known as Bill to his mates), took office

This is Fen country, which is not nec-essarily an excuse for describing its potiticians, past and present, as "wet". Ancient churches dominate a landscape which the novelist Dorothy L Sayers described as resembling a chess-board. And indeed there is a Dorotby L Sayers car trail which starts at Bluntisham, where she lived as a child. just oorth of Huntingdon.

Perhaps this is ooc reasoo wby road users are treated with respect in Huntingdon. Parking in the town centre of the Prime Mioister's constituency, my companion cried 50p for 24 hours. Aren't Conservative authorities won-

stage plan, winds its way around Huntingdon, encompassing some interesting bridges. Walking south to north, just outside

Huntingdon, you come across a bridge that looks as if it has been lifted off a Willow Pattern plate. Further along is the Old River Bridge on the Roman road between Huntingdon and Godmanchester. Locals tend to describe this as "not quite meeting in the middle".

A helpful barman at the nearby Old

Bridge Inn explained that this is due to the bridge's joint construction by the Huntingdon and Godmanchester town councils. A closer inspectioo revealed tasteful decoration on the Huntingdon side and a puritanical design on the Godmanchester side. Cromwell would

have approved of the latter. The Oliver Cromwell industry thrives here. Young Oliver, and his near-con-temporary, the diarist Samuel Pepys, were both educated in a small, 11th-century huilding in Huntingdon town cenderfull" Walkers are also treated with tre, now the Cromwell Museum. The consideratioo. The 26-mile Great centrepiece is a huge, wide-brimmed Ouse Valley path, detailed by the bat, once worn by Oliver Cromwell. local authority in a thoughtful seveo- Neighbouring St. Ives, which also lays information which states, a little peev- political high fliers.

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or see your local ABTA travel agent.

claim to Cromwell, has a museum with a proud collection of Cromwellian artefacts. And there's more: Hinchingbrooke House, just outside Huntingdon now a school but occasionally open to the public - advertises itself as Cromwell's childhood home.

Activities at adjoining Hinching-brooke Country Park have clearly been motivated by contemporary political leadership as much as that of the 17th century. One of the many activity breaks offered is a weekend of "Back to the Iroo Age", which may perhaps be taking "Back to Basics" to ao extreme.

ing "Back to Basics" to an extreme.

"Back to the Iron Age" happens twice a year — dates for next year's events have not yet been confirmed but are likely to be in May and September. During these weekends you learn about wattle and daub, domestic crafts and thatching. Judging by the many well preserved thatched cottages, skilled thalchers have always been in demand in the area. It is also possible to "get on your area. It is also possible to "get on your bike" (or hire one) at nearby Grafham Water, and cycle around the park.

The District Council supplies tourist

ishly: "As subsidies diminish and competition from the European market increases, farmers are looking towards diversification to make a living, Fruit picking at local farms, flour milling for tourists at the 17th-century watermill at Houghton and "watching the mysterious honey bee at work" at Grays Honey Farm in the viltage of Warbon, are flourishing. But another farm en route, where we had hoped to stop and watch cheeses being made, rang us back sounding sad after our enquiry. "We're sorry, but we don't make cheese here at the moment, because we can't sell our

existing stocks rapidly enough."
To get a different taste of the past we moved on to Warboys, one of 12 World War Two air bases in the area, chiefly used by American pilots. American bandleader Glenn Miller used a transport plane from RAF Alconbury on his last flight. Alconhury remains a US Air-base and offers tours for groups, A local authority leaflet suggests that Huntingdon is more regularly flown over by military aircraft than by the birds. Perhaps that's appropriate in a region of

> Road users are treated with respect in Huntingdon (above) Photograph: Brian Harris



7 nights from £499 0171-836 9911

#### Bargain of the week

Air fares from London to AAmsterdam are hovering around the £59 mark, but the addition of £8 in tax means that this week's bargain is especially sharp. British Rail International (0171-834 2345) will sell you a traio-ship ticket to

any station in Holland for £49 return. This could take you to the German border, or as far as Maastricht. The only eatch is that, on overnight sailings, you have to pay an extra 16 each way for a

#### Trouble spots

Advice from our source in the Foreign Office:



Albania (above): Avoid remote areas, keep valuables secure and do not carry large amounts of eash. Take care when in rural areas. Travel with a local guide who can ensure that local customs and traditions are not inadvertently breached.

Bulgaria: Do not accept any food or drink from strangers as there is a risk it may be drugged. Vehicle theft, including armed hijacking, has become more frequent. There have also been shootings in public places between rival criminal gangs and a small number of explosions involving home-made

Moldova: Avoid non-essential travel to Transdnestria (oorth-west Moldova), which is not under Moldovan government control and where the security situation is unpredictable.

Greece: To counter the continuing threat posed by boat thieves, the

Greek authorities have announced measures to tackle the problem. including a 50-strong police unit with the specific task of protecting the coast of Corfu from incursions

India: There is a serious risk of kidnapping in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Avoid travel to all parts of the state apart from Ladakh, Travel to Ladakh should be by air or via Manali in Himachal Pradesh, Militants have held hostage two Britons and two other foreign nationals since July 1995 and mardered a Norwegian hostage in August 1995. Six Indian tourists were abdicted from their houseboat in Srinigar and murdered in July 1996.

Travel advice for many other destinations is available from the Foreign Office on 0171-238 4503, http://www.fco.gov.uk/on the Internet, and on BBC-2 Coefax page 564 onwards.

#### Visitors' book

19 DITS 21609 20VETO 10021 IST attoral Game Reserve, Kenya

#### Game seen today

4.8.96 "Lioness and cubs (we saw them suckling and had a puncture to feet away!!!)" - Anon

7.8.96 "We saw everything except lions hut still had a great time" - Men from 16th HGS, USAF

18,7.96 "We've seen a herd of 45 elephants heading towards the mountains for food. Saw lots of haby elephants literally 10ft away from our bus, eat your heart out David Attenborough" - Bean family, Yorkshire

4.4.96 "Where are all the cheetahs?" - Ann, USA

Are you proud of your travel Aphotographs? Would you like to see them on display to the public?
If the answer to these two questions is yes then you should enter the Wanderlust photo travel competition, sponsored by The Independent and Canou. The

9.4.96 "Dear Ann, USA -- we saw three cheetahs having a rest! (and much more Kathleen, Wales

#### Birds seen today

2,4.96 "I saw some really goodlooking ones with legs up to their armpits and great blonde bair" - anon

27.10.95 "Yes, big birds, small birds, most of them flying very fast" - Bwana Masharubu

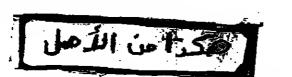
24.8.95 "Two lovehirds, Hawk and hawkette" - Mr and Mrs Lundmark on their

#### Picture this

winner will receive £1,000 worth of camera equipment and the best 25

entries will be displayed at the Desintations '97, to be held in London's Olympia from 6 to 9 February next year. All entries must be accompanied by an official entry form - which you get by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Wanderlust (Photo Competition), PO Box 1832. Windsor, Berks SL4 6YP.

#### UNTUMN IN FRANCE SO MANY WAYS TO ENJOY A BREAK AND GREAT 'VALUE PLUS' FARES HOTEL VALUE **VOUCHERS**: REAL SAVINGS ON FERRY TRAVEL THE GREAT VALUE WAY FOR SHORT BREAKS PERFECT FOR SHORT BREAKS OR OR TOURING HOLIDAYS LONGER STAYS IN FRANCE from £14<sup>+</sup>per person, 3-Day Returns from £45\* for a car, driver and up to 4 passengers. per night, including breakfast. With any return ticket, you can choose from a great Stay up to 3 days abroad. range of hotels throughout France. Just one of a great range of 'Value Plus' fares. HOLIDAY HOMES



# Naval gazing and the joys of Victory

The Gurney family visits Portsmouth's historic ships and dockyard. Interviews by Hamish Scott

ortsmouth, a oaval dockyard since 1194, a battle. I pretended that we'd lost a propeller bases. The historic heart of the old yard includes a number of museums and exhibitions, besides three historic ships on permaneot display. The Victory, Nelson's flagship at Trafalgar, is preserved in all its glory as a national icon, whilst the Warrior, the world's most powerful and technologically sophisticated warship when launched in 1860, has been restored to immaculate condition. The Mary Rose, by contrast, is an eerie relic, its timbers sprayed cootinuously with water to ensure its preservation. Sunk in 1545, the man-of-war was raised and brought back to dry land in 1982 in the climax of the most amhitious underwater excavation ever undertaken. Guns, clothing and personal possessions recovered from the site are on view in a separate exhibition.

Modern warships visiting the dockyard often Andrew: It took 2,500 trees to build the Victory. welcome visitors, though generally not to study the more intricate details of armaments and electronics. Boat trips round the harbour allow would-be admirals to review the fleet and check on Britain's naval readiness should a new Armada be sighted in the Channel.

#### The visitors

Alastair and Lynne Gurney took their children Andrew, 15, Hope, 12, and Ronan, seven, to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard,

Ronan: It was a really, really good day, and I know quite a lot about sailing. On the hig ship [Victory] the man put me in a hammock, which was really cosy, but then he said he'd stick a needle through my nose to see if I was dead. That's what they used to do, you know. After enjoy. For the smaller child, there's scope for lunch I went off to play and there were all these fun and fantasy; then there are also all the more guns and nets and things where we could have technical details to interest adolescents.

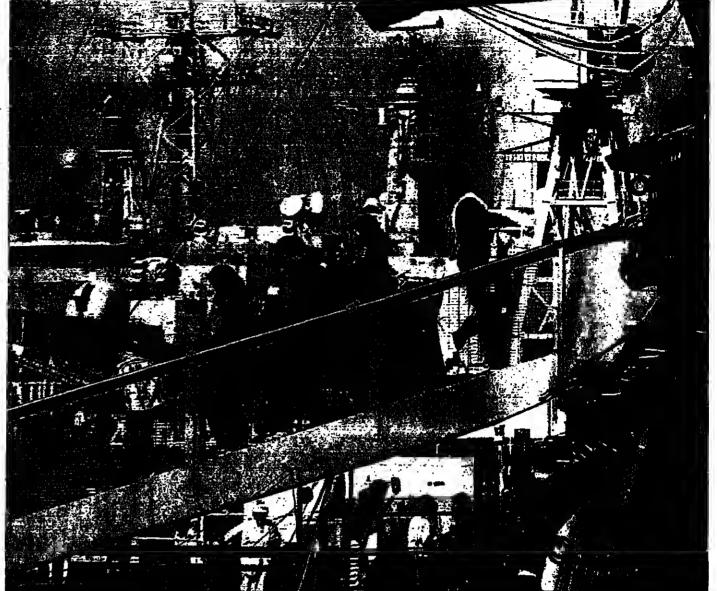
Hope: The Victory was brilliant. It was all so realistic, like stepping through a door and finding you'd gone back in time. The guns were really huge, and they even had the bags of grapeshot and special canonballs that could cut down masts. The guide was good, but it was also nice to walk around the Warrior and explore things for yourself.

When we saw the Mary Rose I liked the way it was all dripping with the water, as though it had just come up from the sea. One side was a support of the deals of the deals of the deals of the deals. rotted away, so you could see inside the decks and imagine how it was before it sank. I thought it was a really hrilliant day, but I wish we'd had more time.

so a lot of forest must have been cut down. I thought she was the best ship that we saw, because she was so old and graceful, hut it was interesting to see how cramped the sailors were; 14 of them had to share a mess, which was just a little table in between the guns, and their hammocks were so close that they touched.

The Warrior's engine room was amazing, with the huge piston going up and down. The whole ship felt as though it could put to sea at any moment. I also quite enjoyed the boat trip round the frigates and aircraft carriers. The Illustrious uses up 200 gallons of fuel a mile. which is pretty amazing when you think about how far it goes.

Lynne: What impressed me is that three children of different ages all found something to



There's far too much to do just on ooe day

and ideally I would have made two visits. My only criticisms are the food, and the lack of helpful signposts. More than ooce we found ourselves separated from our destination by some gate that seemed to have been suppose I was quite privileged to have a stoogcold pie for lunch, but I did not expect the sartical lashing that I got when I complained. locked only to annoy us. Thank goodness it wasn't raining.

Alastair: It was remarkably impressive, particularly since the ships, the huildings and museum collections are all seen in their proper

I did find some of the staff, from the car park to the restaurant, a hit unhelpful and unfriendly. Considering the diet Nelson's crew endured, I

#### The deal

Location: Postsmouth, Hampshire, signposted from the M27. Open 10am-6pm until 31 Octomuseum collections are all seen in their proper cootext, rather than some setting that has been artificially contrived. The Navy man who cost: Access to the dockyard itself is free. Tickshowed us round the Victory was excellent, but ets are available to iodividual attractions, with

special rates for senior citizens and children. An "all-io passport", £30,50 for two adults and a child, allows all attractions to be visited once within a two-year period (01705 861533). Food: the Tradewinds Restaurant serves salads and hot dishes, from £3.99, children's meals, £1,99, and snacks.

Crowds: 650,000 visitors a year, but the main attractions are spaced well apart. In autumn, even at weekends, there are seldom queues. Access: the disabled are limited to certain docks on the Victory and the Warrior; otherwise good. Wheelchairs available from the visitor centre. Toilets: Immaculately clean and with wellequipped baby care rooms.

Closing date All applications must be received by Eurosave by 30 October 1996.

Before 09:30

To book your day trip for travel between 2 - 16 October 1996, Hoverspeed will take credit card bookings for those taking a vehicle, please telephone 0990 240241\*.

To book your day trip for travel after 16 October 1996 if you are taking a vehicle or travelling as a foot-passenger, please fill in the following details.

3rd choice

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Purty Leader:

Day Trip Offers

Foot passengers:Folkestone Boulogne for £0,10, any day

sturday car supplement of £10°

No. of cars with up to 5 people @ £10, Sun - Sai

### Fun and squalor in a medieval castle

William Hartston braves goats and gore in the reconstructed Stansted Mountfitchet village

tion 8 turn-off, you pass a sign fitchet Castle and Norman vilthing to have next to an airport. Following the signs to the the village of Stansted Mountfitchet, things become even odder as the alternative attrac-House on the Hill Toy Museum compete for your attention.

Anyway, we followed what we thought were directions to the castle and Norman village, through a gate and up the hill, past a talking tree and through the door at the top, and discovered that we were in the toy museum. Of course, we should have gone under that much larger gate with the severed heads on top of it. So we went back down the hill to the castle, where we paid the entrance fee and bought a bag of food for the animals that are kept at there.

The first animal we met, eveo before entering the castle, was a goat that seemed friendly but, with unseemly greed, took a huge bite out of our food bag. A brief tussle ensued, leaving the goat eating the spillage and us rescuing what we could for the sheep and chickens we expected to

All that remains of the original castle is a small chunk of its tower. The commentary activated by heat-sensors castle itself was occupied by Richard

bout half-way to Cambridge de Mountfitchet I, one of the 25 ing mood is the one suggested by those along the M11, ocar the june barons who forced King John to sign heads above the entrance. There's a the Magna Carta at Runnymede in advertising "Stansted Mount- 1215. The rest is a modern reconstruction - it opened in 1986 - based lage", which seems an odd on a mixture of historical record, a large dose of medieval myth and huge quantities of gore.

The Domesday Book lists 11 families living within the walls. The rebuildtions of a local windmill and the ing has been done with a reasonable degree of authenticity: lots of oak, hazel and wattle and no nails; and the huts are, as far as possible, where geological surveys suggest they may bave been in the 11th century - though there was not much to go on. The castle was demolished by King John's forces and its stones have been looted by villagers for 900 years. Wheo a local businessman, Alan Goldsmith, bought the site, all that remained was an overgrown mound.

In the absence of detailed accounts of life in the original castle, the reconstruction concentrates on the squalor and violence of the Middle Ages, Hollywood style, rather than opting for an accurate portrayal of what was probably a rather tedious everyday life in a period of growing commerce and increasing social organisation. Technically, the rebuilding has been a fine achievement. The potter's hut, the dyer's hut and the blacksmith's shop each have a life-size figure giving a whenever anyone enters; but the abid-

surgeon in mid-operation, who chuckles over how few of his patients survive; a man being hanged on a gibbet; a house burnt down by Saxoo raiders leaving a corpse or two as evidence; a jailhouse, which few survived; and a neat little torture chamber with a warning sign for children of oervous disposition. There's a pillory to keep the kids entertained, and a mangonel - a type of catapult - that could hurl rocks 300 yards. The squalor of the age is well represented by the model who explains that "we bathe about once a

month, and then only in summer". The average 11th-century resident of Stansted Mountfitchet would probably not have encountered all the things packed into the reproduction in an entire lifetime, but this cod-medieval theme park makes a most entertaining day out. The children love the gore and the adults are amused by the squalor. In reality, though, the most dangerous aspect of life in Mountlitcher castle in the Middle Ages was probably the threat of being nibbled to death by those hungry goats.

> Stansted Mountfitchet Castle and the House on the Hill Toy Museum are open daily until 10 November (after which, they say, the wind gets so strong it would blow visitors off the hill). Adults £3.85, children

### Take a car and 5 people to France for £10 with \* THE INDEPENDENT

doday is final day of our Hoverspeed offer. To celebrate The Independent's tenth anniversary oo 7 October, we are offering readers the chance to take a day trip to France to stock up for Christmas, with a car and up to five people for £10. You can take your car oo Hoverspeed's Dover to Calais or Folkestone to Boulogne routes for only £10 (£20 on Saturdays), or alternatively, travel as a foot passenger on the Folkestone to Boulogne route and pay just 10p.

To add to our anniversary celebrations we have another special offer, every person who books a day trip will receive a season ticket. The seasoo ticket allows you to take as many day trips from Dover to Calais or Folkestone to Boulogne as you like until 30 June 1997 with a car and up to five people for only £10 (£20 on Saturdays) each time you travel.

The normal day trip fare for foot passengers is £10 and the price for a car plus five people, £55. The Chanoel crossings with Hoverspeed are aboard either Hovercraft or SeaCat, both of which offer duty-free goods. Exclusive to Independent readers, Hover-speed is also offering 10% off all duty and tax free goods when you spend over £30 on one transaction at Dover. Folkestone and Boulogne land-based shops. A voucher will be supplied with your day trip tickets and is valid until 20 December 1996.

Foot passengers can travel from 16 October, car pas-



To participate in our offer, you must collect four differently numbered tokens from the eight printed in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday. The final token, Token 8 is printed below. You will need to

complete the booking form, printed right, and send it with your tokens and payment to the address shown on the booking form. Alternatively, if you wish to travel by car between 2 - 16
October, once you have

collected your tokens, you can make a credit card booking by calling Hoverspeed reservations, see the booking form for further details.

TOKEN

Enclose the completed booking form, full payment, your tokens and a first class stamped addressed cuvelope (9in x 7in) and post to: Independent/Hoverspeed Offer, EuroSave Travel Club. PO Box 181, Dover, Kent, CT17 9DE to arrive by 30 October 1996. This promotion is subject to limited space availability. If we are unable to confirm your booking or your crossing a cancelled by Hoverspeed all mouses will be returned to you, mo other returned will be made. All alterations are subject to a 10 amendment fee. Minamum postal booking notice is 14 days. 24 pours notice must be given for telephone brokings. There'll a available through to 20 December 1996. 20 December 1996.

Massman of 5 people per cu - no trailers, curavans, manitoses or transit and wans are allowed within the terms of this offer. Fort Garden will endersoon Materian of 5 people as the terms of this offer. EuroSave will endeavour to despatch tackets at least 10 days prior to departure. Valid prosports was are required. Carriage by sea is subject to terms and conditions of the entrier, copies 1 of which are available on request. For information, 1 and 11 lowersher are French Bank Holidays. Shops in France are usually open in Sundays in December. This offer is only valid for day time, vehicles carrying overright luggage; will be reliated at the port, a minimum of 4 hours must be spent in France. Terms and Conditions

booking or if your crossing the returned to you, no esspect all mones will be returned to you, no other returned will be made.

3. All alterations are subject to a £10 amend-3. All alterations are subject to a £10 amend-ment fee.

4. Booking forms must be received by 30 Oc-tuber 1996.

5. You must take one day trip, either by our or as a foot passenger, before 20 December 1996 to receive way season facts. Car travelless can start travelling from 2 October, foot passengers can start travelling from 16 October 1996.

6. Minimum postal booking unities is 14 days, 24 hours notice must be given for telephone bookings.



#### **ARE WE NEARLY THERE?** A weekly round-up of outings for children Wildlife

National Sea-Life Centre An indoor ocean in the centre of Birmineham. Visitors can watch sharks, sea-horses and other fish swim around and beneath them. handle rock-pool

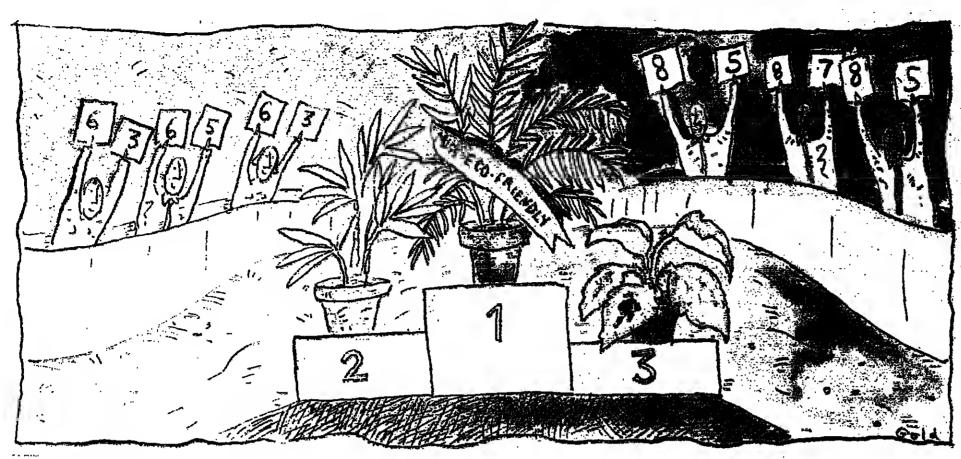
inhabitants, and take part in the water cycle. The Waters Edge, Brindley Place, Birmingham B1 2HL (0121 6436777). Children £3.95, adults £6.50, under threes free. Open every day, <u> 10ат-брт.</u>

National Seal Sanctuary A rescue centre plus video displays and brain-teasers. Gweek, Heiston.

Cornwall, TR12 6UG (01326 221 361). Children £3.35, adults £4.95, family ticket £16, OAPs £3.95, under fours free. Open every day, 9am-5pm.

Mole Hall Wildlife Park Otters and cubs are major attractions at this small park, with chimps, butterflies, owls, wallabies, snakes, llamas and arctic foxes. Widdington, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3SS (01799 540 400). Childreo £2.60, adults £4, concessions £3.20, under threes free. Open every day, 10.30am-6pm.

**Abigail Rayner** 



## And the winner is

Choosing houseplants? Go for begonias and other leafy varieties that are eco-friendly and surprisingly forgiving. By Anna Pavord

eatiness is what you need frum houseplants, even if, like cyclamen, they produce flowers as well. Greenery makes even the dingiest cell seem more hospitable, as our eldest daughter discovered when she started her university term in a that would have had prison reformers on hone to the News of the World. But among uggage was Matilda, a large prayer plant anta) and an even bigger rubber plant to for some reason has never acquired a would more that once every couple of weeks, but I would more that once every couple of weeks, but I room that would have had prison reformers on the phone tu the News of the World. But among her luggage was Matilda, a large prayer plant (maranta) and an even bigger rubber plant which for some reason has never acquired a name. That is unusual in our family, where even visiting spider plants get christened. The plants did more than posters, Indian throws or music to make her room feel like home.

First you've got to get them there, and in a car heaped with tottering piles of Guatemalan jerseys and jars of Nescale, it's not easy to find room for a prayer plant in full fig. But plants are so forgiving. The unes scattered about our home could be basking in a Malay jungle, ur cruising through the undergrowth uf a Dominican rainforest. Instead they are stuck on the window ledge of a freezing cold house and expected to make the best of it.

Not surprisingly, some cope better than others. Begonias, the leafy kind, do well with us because they positively enjoy the cool. And the rather low light that there is, for instance, in the allow stoneware sink on the landing. When we came, this was the only source of water upstairs, a sink 2ft 10in long by 1ft 7in wide and only 4in deep. It is set under an east-facing sash window and, from the beginning, has been filled with houseplants.

I started with an old Begonia maculata that

leaves growing on strong, bright green canes. When it gets too leggy, I cut a few of the tallest stems down. You can root the tops to make new plants. The leaves, lopsided in the usual begonia way, are about 1ft long and spotted all over

would guess that in our house, with stone floors and no central beating, it loses less water than it would in a close-carpeted, centrally heated room. It likes damp, that is, a damp atmosphere. Like most houseplants it loathes being wet at the roots, and it doesn't seem to like misting, either. Not that I've ever tried, but someone who had, told me it made the leaves die back.

Begonia manicata is much more compact, with furry, fat stems slowly winding round and round themselves like snakes to produce a low mound of handsome, staggeringly glossy leaves. Each une could star in a Mr Sheen some reial. They are dark, bronzy green, with ruffs of strange little red hairs round the margins and on the undersides. They are the kind of leaves that I'm tempted to sink my teeth into. The plant heaps itself up in an elegant way, each leaf fitting neatly into a space on the same plane as its neighbours.
The stems are spotted with red, and are hairy like the leaves. The flowers are carried well above the leaves on strong, upright stalks. They appear in late winter.

Two new begonias have recently joined the trough. One I bought as 'Gloire de Lorraine' but it obviously isn't, as that variety has bright green my aunt threw out when she moved house. I've lost count of the number of times I have divided it up and passed it on 10 friends. Sometimes it spends the summer outside in the shade. ering over the last couple of months (the real beside the back door. It makes a tall plant, the 'G de L' is winter-flowering) bearing the flow-

ers like cherry blossom at the sboot tips. They are bright pink and heavily double.

David Rhodes of Rhodes & Rockliffe, which specialises in leafy begonias (they put up a stunning display at Chelsea this year), thinks that mine must be 'Lady France', an old variety popular in Victorian conservatories. The growths are quite lax and when the flowers bave finished. I think I'll pinch back the shoots to make them break into more growing points. The more growing points, the more flowers.

The other new begonia is an "eyelasb" type, so-called because the leaves are heavily fringed with white hairs. The stems are covered with the hairs, too, looking like wool when the leaves are unfurling and the stems short. As the stems grow, the hairs space out and become less dense. The leaves are crinkled, with points like an ivy leaf, rather than the smooth, rounded shape of B. manicata and 'Lady France'. They are dark, with a paler splash in the centre. The one I have is 'Beatrice Haddrell'. It is winter-flowering. It's a more compact plant than the others, about 8in high and the same wide.

I like the begonias because they like us, are undemanding and suit the particular conditions of the house - and because I've never seen a bug on them. The asparagus fern, Asparagus densiflorus Sprengeri, which stands behind them in sink, collects aphids as though its life depended on it (rather than the reverse), but they never cross over on to the begonias.

If plants collapse it's likely to be because they bave been overwatered. Thick, sappy stems are

prone to fungal attack if the compost is too soggy. If leaves are tinged with yellow (or, in the tall, cane types, too much red), you may not be feeding the plants enough. They do best if they are repotted in fresh composi every spring.

Now, reading Eco-Friendly Houseplants, I learn that my begonias are doing me good as

well. They have a high transpiration rate, which means they suck in nasties from the atmosphere at a greater rate than many other houseplants. "As water moves rapidly from the soil surrounding the roots up through the plant, air is pulled down around roots adding nitrogen gas and oxygen to the soil," writes the author, Dr BC Wolverton, "Through a binlogical process called nitrogen fixation, certain microbes can convert atmospheric nitrogen gas microbes itrate, a charge the statement of th

a chemical that plants use as a nutrient."

Because air inside buildings is naturally dry, a high transpiration rate in a plant means that more air (and toxins) go to the root zone where microbes absorb and convert them into food.

Dr Wolverton has spent most of his working life as a NASA scientist, researching closed lifesupport systems for future space statiuns. In this book, he assesses 50 houseplants according to their ability to remove chemical toxins from the air, ease of maintenance, resistance to pests and transpiration rate. Then he marks them out of 10. The beauties set 6.3 minutes

10. The begonias got 6.3 points.
The best-performing plants, according to his criteria, are the areca palm, Chrysalidocarpus lutescens, and the lady palm, Rhapis excelsa. Both scored 8.5 points. The areca palm transpires two pints of water every day and is the best known plant for removing the toxins associated with air ors (most commonly formaldebyde, present in paper towels, floor coverings, carpet backings, plywood, chipboard etc).

> 'Eco-Friendly Hauseplants' is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson at £14.99. A wide range of begonias is available by mail order from Rhodes and Rockliffe, 2 Nursery Road, Nazeing, Essex EN9 2JE (01992 463693). Send two first-class stamps for a copy of their catalogue. The nursery is open by appointment only.

fter a May visit, I wrote about the Hjournées des Plantes de Courson, at the home of Hélène and Patrice Fustier, Domaine de Courson, 35km south of Paris. Roy Lancaster and Peter Beales are lecturing there and English nurserymen are selling alongside the French. Lyndsay Mikanowski is recreating a garden in the style of Margery Fish: Pepimeres de Kerfandol from Brittany are showing magnolias and rhododendrons; William Waterfield is displaying tropical fruits. Courson is open 18-20 October, admission FF60.

Dracken, once cut for cattle bedding by Welsb farmers, is now a pest. More than 200 hectares is sprayed each year in the New Forest alone. Cutting is twice as expensive as spraying with herbicide, but English Nature, working with the Forestry Commission, hope to be able to turn composted bracken into a peat substitute. If they can recoup costs by setling it, they will be able to cut rather than spray. Composted bracken, with its low pH value, would be ideal for rhododendron and many heathers.

When writing about beans (27 July), I recommended the seed catalogue of Grains Baumaux, Nancy. I received a new one this season without fuss, but Joy Richardson of Thame, Oxfordshire, was not so lucky. She got a note saying "Nous n'expedions pas de catalogue hors de France." Vive the EC.

#### **WEEKEND WORK**

Wind, one of the gardener's worst enemies, has been flexing its muscles again recently. Tie np any climbers that have been torn from their moorings and secure new growths of climbing roses, solanum and the like.

Lay new turf where necessary so that the grass can settle before the winter.
Dig over the ground to be turfed, getting rid of all weeds. Rake the earth to a fine tilth. Use a line tu keep the turves straight and lay them so the joints are staggered, like brickwork. Sift soil into any gaps and firm down by banging with a rake head.

Finish planting spring bedding plants such as wallflowers, polyanthus and forget-me-nots. The latter make a pretty under-carpet for tulips, especially the white-flowered White Triumpbator or the stubby, double 'Angélique'.

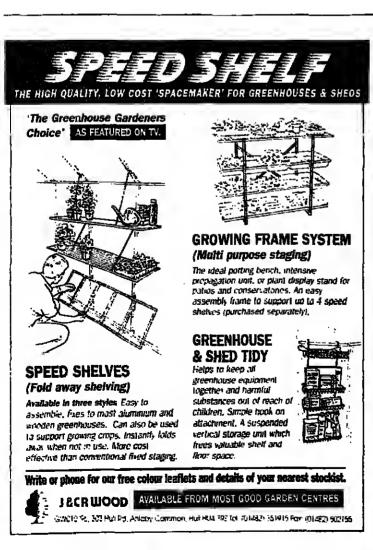
Clean up the ground between strawberry rows, getting rid of weeds and unwanted plants that have rooted themselves. Mulch between the rows with well-rotted compost or manure.

Plant lilies, which are best moved like snowdrops, just after they have finished flowering. The martagon lily is a hardy, lime-tolerant species that will thrive in sun or shade. Put the bulbs about 9in apart and 4in deep, with a sprinkle of sharp sand under them tu deter underground slugs. Mulch in spring with compost or leafmould. The ordinary type bas dirty purple flowers with ginger anthers, but there is also a lovely white furm.

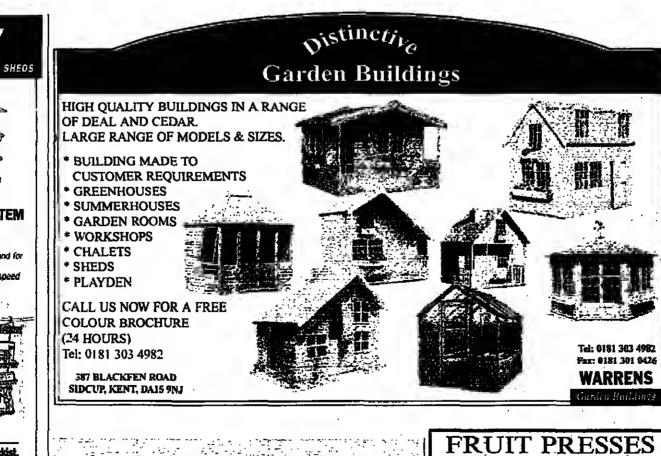
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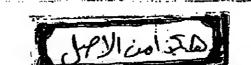


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long-odds

outcomes is still

a losing strategy

in the long run

EKEND WORK

leading bookmakers, a catastrophe for the bookmaking bookmaking bookmaking bookmaking bookmaking bayoff with such a statistically outlands he statis an estimated £30m, and one company, Stanley Leisure, was forced to issue a profits warning, proba-bly the first time in stock market history that such an event has been prompted by a single day's horse

Yet last weekend's coup by £550,000 on a Frankie Dettori in winning all seven races oo the card at a big Ascot meeting tells us a lot about how Britaio as a nation baodles its Such outright money. We all know that gambling of those who normally subsidise the is a big industry and that it only prospers because those who take the bets are better able to calculate the odds than those who place them. In a free, capitalist country, the odds than those who place there is oothing wroog in grown-ups taking such gambles if they so

> Saturday oo this historically unique strategy.
>
> Those who make such bets are actually had bets which could only clearly drawn by the same irrational

industry. Bookies collectively lost £60 bet. It was such a long shot that for practical purposes it was off the scale of probabilities.

The winning odds that he received were more than 25,000 to 1 against. And yet this punter was not alone. The number of those who woo with various muttiple bets as a result of Dettori's success numbered huodreds.

The one thing you can be certain about is that most of the higgest winners were drawn from the ranks ously interested in making money demonstrated clearly that most amateur punters back more outsiders and fewer favourites than Yet surely as surprising as the they should do if they are pursuing amount which the bookies lost last a rational, money-maximising



**INVESTMENTS** 

lure as those who regularly bet on the National Lottery. It is the size of the potential payout relative to the scale of the bet - and to the wealth of the individual - which is the real draw.

Such bets as the Dettori accumulator only make sense if the person making the het knows that his own lifetime earning power is not going to free him from financial duress. He needs a bonanza, a jackpot, a goldmine to satisfy his needs. The Klondike spirit, consciously or

Sometimes miracles du occur and the bet pays off.

Yet such outright speculation on long-odds outcomes is still a losing strategy in the long run, which is why the professionals will always be found going the other way. Io the stock market, "get rich quick" investors tend to be drawn to penny shares and to buy traded options, attracted by their unlimited upside potential. Now and theo such investments will pay off spectacularly.

But more often than not, they do ceot of all call options expire worthless. That is one reason why professionals in the options market mostly "write" options (ie act as the counter-party to the buyer) rather than buy them. Taking the investor's bets is a more certain way to make money over the long

The truth is that attitudes to risk, in the stock market, as in horse racing, are not strictly rational. Recent academic research has highlighted

we overpay to insure against possible loss, however small or than dramatic, returns.

speculative shares, the vast majority of Britons go to the other extreme and ignore shares altogether because they wrongly regard the risk of tosing money as too high. The Weinberg report on risk diminishes ton. wider sbare ownersbip earlier this not. It is no coincidence that 90 per year demonstrated conclusively that most people are put off huy-

iog shares by their absolute aver-sion to losing money. Yet the long-term returns from buying shares in established highquality companies, or simply from huying an index tracking fund, are quantifiably higher than most investmeots of similar risk. It is true that the chaoces of outperformiog the equity market as a the consolation with shares is that that we are not.

otherwise, is what drives him on. how lopsided people are in their you don't need to outperform approach to money. By and large, everybody else in order to make a deceot return over time.

The long-run average return oo improbable, and under-invest in shares is about 7 per cent in real things that offer steady, rather terms. The risk of an equity investor losing all his money. So, while some investors will assuming he holds a diversified throw all their money at long-odds portfolio, and has not borrowed to finance it, is to all intents and purposes zero. The risk of losing say 25 per cent of his wealth in any one or two-year period is of course high, but over longer periods that

The fact that there is nobody to write up the odds in chalk on a hlackboard does not mean that the odds are not there. But nor does it mean that we should react sensibly even if they were. As last week's dramatic day of racing showed, tife would be much the poorer if we were all "desiceated calculating machines" capable of working out all of life's odds correctly. They also remind us that whole industries, from insurance whole may be statistically poor. But to bookmaking, depend on the fact

## A handout for millions when a mutual insurer floats

Norwich Union's decision to head for the stock market should mean £2bn in shares for policyholders — at least £500 each, reports Nic Cicutti

orwich Uoioo this week became the first of the UK's mutual increase. announce plans to float oo the Stock Exchange, entitling 2.9 million policyholders to a shares handout. The decisioo, taken after a year's review of the insurer's options, follows the rush by most large building societies, including the Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester, to become banks.

As with the building societies, Norwich Union plans to sweeten the deal for policyholders by offering them shares in the company when it floats next year. The insurer refused to give details of its plans, which it intends to unveil ahead of a ballot and meeting of members next Spring. However, the flotation will involve giving policyholders a parcel of shares each and raising extra capital from the stock market.

Experts believe the company will be worth between £4bn and £4.5bn, with members receiving about £2bn in shares. Norwich Union said last week that it intends to give each policyholder a basic allocation of shares, with an extra amount depending on the scale of a member's savings with the company. Based on estimates inean a basic allocation about £500 worth of

Among policyholders qualifying for shares are those with life and term assurance cover. both with-profits and unit-linked policyholders, personal pensions and annuity holders. Qualifying members will be given the right to buy an additional amount of shares at a preferential price. Those not benefiting will be the company's motor, bousehold and other general insurance policyholders, 600,000 health and medical insurance members, unit trust and PEP

Others who will lose out are the 10,000-15,000. members whose policies nature between now and March next year, when voting takes place. The company said last week that those individuals will receive an extra, unspecified boous to their funds to take this into account. It may be possible for some policyholders to extend the life of their policies until after the vote.

Beale Dobie, which deals in second-band endowment policies, said the flotation means that anyone considering surrendering their policies should think again. By selling them on the second-hand market, policyholders will retain the right to shares on flotation. Conversely, anyone boping to buy a traded endowment to gain from the free shares is wasting their money.

Norwich Union's decision to float was not a surprise. Despite its claims of uniqueness, most industry analysts believe its move is likely to be



Bridgewater prepare to publicise their flotation plans

over by larger banks or already-listed insurers, include Friends Provident, believed to be up for sale at present, Scottish Provident, Scottish Widows, Scottish Amicable and NPI. All have repeatedly stated that they bave no intendoo of abandoning mutuality, as has Standard Life, the largest mutual insurer in Europe. However, observers point to the way that building societies were stressing their commitment to the mutual ideal two or three years ago. Earlier this year, Standard Life admitted that a senior employee had been seconded by the company to exam-

ine the implications of demutualising. Prospective "carpetbaggers" hoping to benefit from any expected flotation or takeover should bear in mind that setting up a pension scheme or taking out life cover is a much longer-term proposition than the simple act of

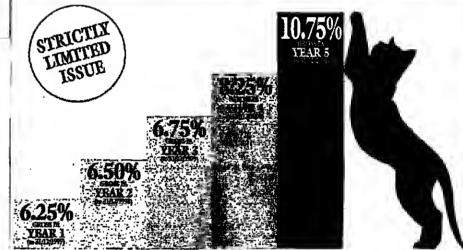
Companies tipped to follow suit, or be taken money and the potential gain from a shares wer by larger banks or already-listed insurers, handout is unlikely to be worth the costs of set-

ting up and then discontinuing a policy.

The greatest irooy is that Norwich Uoion is among a large number of mutual life insurers serving their policyholders better than conventional insurance companies owned by outside shareholders.

An analysis for the Independent by John Chapman, a former senior official at the Office of Fair Trading, shows that at the top of performance league tables, mutuals outnumber proprietary companies by a wide margin. They also represent a minority of insurers at the bottom, where many of the poor performers are

proprietary companies. The excellent performance of mutuals raises fundamental questions about whose interests are being served by the treod towards ahan-



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### The house that we built

A couple in the negative equity trap dug their way out with a build-it-yourself cottage. Karen Fardell found out how it was done

ore than 500,000 homeowners in Britain are tied to their existing home by the spectre of negative equity. Despite the past year's bousing market recovery, for many it will take at least another 12 months of rising prices before their homes are worth more than the mortgages they owe on them, according to experts.

A minority, including those who bought starter homes or some types of council property in the late 1980s, are unlikely to see an end to their problems even then. Others will manage to dig their way out - literally.

Two years ago, Markus and Maxine Lehnert were also stuck in the negative equity trap. Today, they have not only escaped but made themselves a healthy £20,000 profit in the process.

In August 1994, Markus was offered a new position at a hotel in Kent, The commuting would have created too much of a strain, which meant the couple had to move from Luton to Kent.
The problem was their home in Luton took the plans to the Bradford & Binghad been valued at £10,000 less than their existing mortgage. The solution came with their decision to self-build.

"Having read a copy of Build It magazine a few years ago, I knew that there were great savings to be made," explains Markus. Every year around 25,000 cou-ples opt to design and build their own home and through careful planning and hudgeting, some self builders save around 20-30 per cent on the cost of buying a similar property. Markus and Maxine were no exception.

The couple began their search for land in mid September 1994 and finally found a suitable plot through General Accident Land and Property Services. There were two adjoining plots for sale which were on the market for £50,000 each. Howthan the other. Markus managed to negotiate a 20 per cent discount.

I had been on a self-huild seminar on how to budget for the build," he says. do the job so you don't have to waste

Potton, a firm of self-build specialists, and with the help of the company's architect, modified the floor plans of their new home to suit their individual needs.

Markus copied the floor plans for their new home and distributed them with a covering letter to over 150 contractors in the area. Two or three years ago, barely a dozen lenders were prepared to consider mortgages for self-builders. Today, up to 25, including some of the biggest banks and building societies, have special schemes for selfbuilders, while a dozen others will consider applications on an individual basis.

All lenders will pay out the mortgage, charged at the same variable rate, in stages depending on progress achieved in building the home. About half the lenders will, however, not make loans to purchase the land itself, often a hig expense.

Armed with the best quotes from contractors, the kit price for their cotley Building Society. The society offered a mortgage on 75 per cent of the value of the finished property, provided they were able to rent out their existing home in Luton and provide an income to cover their current mortgage. This would cover the total build costs, budgeted at £90,000 and provide the couple with the means to build a house expected to sell for £120,000. Thus, their £10,000 negative equity was covered, leaving another £20,000 profit should the Lehnerts ever

Once the finances were agreed and planning permission was granted, the couple started building in March 1995. Markus and Maxine managed the entire project, bringing in contracted labour for each stage. Neither had any previous ever, since one plot was slightly smaller DIY experience but with good research and planning they completed the build within four months.

"The key is with good suppliers and back in 1993 so I had a fair grounding contractors who have the machinery to

The Lehnerts then approached money hiring equipment. You then need to make sure you have a good solicitor who can belp with the fine print, and finally a good rapport with the building authorities since they have the final jurisdiction over what you can and can't build," advises Markus.

By project managing the build and developing a good relationship with their local builders' merchants, the Lehnerts saved themselves around £30,000 on labour costs and several bundred pounds on materials.

Markus and Maxine moved into their new home in June 1995 with no power or services connected to the property. They carried out all the wiring in the property so that by October the bouse was habitable.

"Camping for four months-was not ideal, and normally it wouldn't have been necessary except that we needed to save every penny possible." Marcus says. "At the time we were renting a property in Kent whilst overseeing the build and so as soon as we had a roof over our beads we moved out to save ourselves the additional expense.

"Before we started the build, I had no DIY experience at all but I found that as the work progressed, I did more and more myself. Wiring up the building was just common sense and in a way, easier for me to do since I knew where all the appliances were going to go."

For a year, the Lehnerts were totally committed to building their dream home but agree that the whole experience has been extremely satisfying. especially since their completed property has been valued at £120,000 as expected. They bave sold their threebedroomed semi in Luton and are now proud owners of a Tudor style cottage with four bedrooms and three reception rooms in the heart of rural Kent.

> To book a place on a Potton Self Build seminar, call 01767 260348. Self-build mortgage details are in MoneyFacts, a monthly specialist guide to the best rates.



Prolific is launching a combination growth PEP, investing in both the UK market and the Far East. Initial charges are 3 per cent, on minimum investment of £2,000. Call

National Counties Building Society is offering a new 90-day postal account, offering 4.25 per cent on savings of £5,000 and a top rate of 6.5 per cent gross on investments above £50,000. Call 01372

Lloyds Bank is launching a job coun-selling service, Jobcare, to holders of its card protection insurance scheme, giving telephone advice on CV writing and job interview techniques. Details from Lloyds

Yorkshire Building Society is offering a three-year stepped rate investment bond starting at 6.5 per cent gross and rising to 8.25 per cent in year three. Call 0800 378836. Skipton's two-year Step-Up Bond increases every six months from 5.75 per cent to 7 per cent. Call 0800 603010.

Framlington is launching a monthly income PEP with 3 per cent initial and 1 per cent annual charges. Minimum invest-ment is £3,000. Call 0345 775511.

Leeds & Holbeck Building Society is offering 10-year fixed rate mortgages, pegged at 8.49 per cent on loan-to-value

of 90 per cent. Call 0113225 7777. Chartwell Investment Management is offering a free Guaranteed Product Guide, which examines "guaranteed" Investments. Call 01225 446556.

Flemings is waiving its usual 1.5 per cent initial charge on PEP investments made in October. Charges now payable are 1 per cent dealing costs and 0.5 per cent stamp duty. The annual rate is £25 plus VAT. Call 0500 500161.

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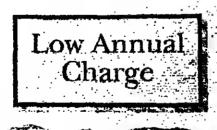
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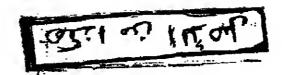
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% pm

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1.87

1.94

0.94N

1.05N

11.90N

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% pm

1.39

1.97

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DRIBET LIDE	G191 601 1151	Instant Savings	Instant	250,000	5.75	Year
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Teachers' BS	01202 887171	Bullion	Postal	£500	4.80	1/21
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National Counties BS	01372 747771	Direct 90	90 day	220,000	6.30	1831
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Cheisea BS Cheisea BS	0800 717515	Classic Postal	Instant	£10,000	4.35	Year
Cressa as	0800 717515	Classic Postal	Instant	£25,000	4.65	Year
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	Fixed Rate Bond	31/3/98	£5,000	6.60F	Hato
Northern Rock BS	0500 505000	Postal Deposit Bond	31/12/98	£2,500	6.75F	Year
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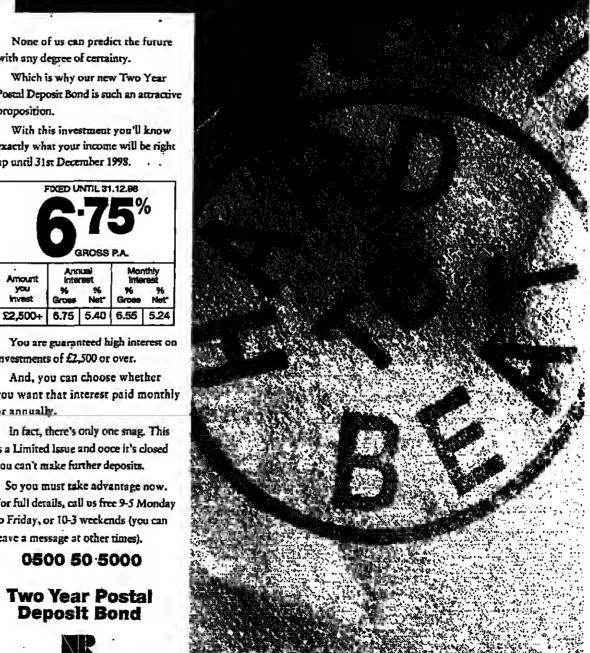
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NORTHERN ROCK



# He's left me out of his will. What can I do?

Aggrieved former partners are increasingly prepared to put up a challenge. Ian Hunter explains how the law works



A recent legal ruling that a live-in lover was not entitled to a share of her deceased partner's peosion would seem to underline the vuloerability of dependants who are not expressly provided for in a will.

The reality, however is that the time-honoured threat to cut an errant relative out of the will is not as potent as it once was. Moreover. changes - both in law and public attitudes mean the situation is no longer as cut and dried

One significant change is that we all appear to be more litigious than before. Exeter-based solicitor Huw Davey, a partner with Anstey Sargent & Probert, says that in his experience in recent years, the numbers prepared to challenge the terms of a will have been on the increase.

Mr Davey believes there are several reasons for this change: "First, potential claimants are better informed of their rights. Often financial advisers are able to offer guidance. Secundly. the recession has played its part, convincing some of the need to pursue a claim where in other circumstances they would be reluctant."

Perhaps even more significantly, a change in the law relating to deaths after I January this year is likely to lead to a further increase in claims. Section 2 of the Law Reform (Succession) Act 1995 now allows a common-law husband or wife, who lived with the deceased for two years prior to the date of death, to make a claim on the estate. Prior to the change, this cat-egory of claimants would only be eligible if they could show they were "maintained" immediately prior to the date of death.

The division of the deceased's estate is usually either governed by the terms of a properly executed will or, in the absence of a will, the rules governing intestacy. Intestacy rules set out the pecking order, governing the deceased's relatives' entitlement in descending order, depending on the extent of the blood connection.

However, the taw recognises, in the form of the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975, that a will or the intestacy rules may not adequately provide for everyone.

deceased but not a relative. A typical situation is where the deceased re-marries late in life and bequeaths everything to his or her new partner, often leaving the children empty-handed and

Save in the case of common-law husbands and wives, claimants must be able to show that they have been maintained by the deceased immediately prior to death.

The law is precise and, to some observers at least, can seem both arbitrary and cruel. If a claimant has been supported by the deceased for a long period of time and then there is a



Where there's a will, there's an argument, especially in old film comedies Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

In particular, someone may be close to the gap shortly before death this will totally frus-

Maintenance, which must be financial, can take a variety of forms including the payment of rent or mortgage, It will not usually stretch to caring for an ill partner. If claimants can establish that they have been maintained, a court must then consider whether sufficient provision has already been made for them.

Should sufficient provision not have been made, the court must then consider whether it should exercise its powers and if so what provision it should order from the deceased's estate. Mr Davey advises parties to attempt, at least

initially, to settle matters amicably short of action. He comments: "Preparing a case for hearing can be costly and time consuming. It will delay the distribution of the estate if the court takes the view that the claimants have a legitimate claim. Those who believe they have a justifiable claim should act quickly as a claim has to be made, in normal circumstances, within six months of the grant of probate or letters of administration.

If all else fails, legal action may still be needed. But if the alternative to a long-term family rift is that a formerly leved dependant is left with nothing, the choice really is no choice at all.

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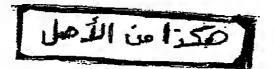
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west of England. Until the exhi-

bition, it would probably have

been difficult to sell. Today, it

realises good prices and demand

is increasing.
Peter Hampson is a London

silver dealer specialising in 20th

His criteria for boying a par-

ticular piece are appropriate for any medium: "Initially it is a case

of a little knowledge and gam-

hling oo your instinct. However, as my knowledge increases, my purchases become less of a

gamble. I look for two things:

"However, I will not buy something which is stylish but which is not well made. I only buy what I

What items dating back a few

decades are worth keeping? Gen-

erally, quality traditional designs

and stylish well-made contem-

porary pieces which capture the

Throwing out an Old Hall 1960s stainless tea service, a

Brauo table lighter or the piece

of studio pottery you bought on holiday 20 years ago could there-fore be a mistake.

mood and spirit of the time.

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io the future."

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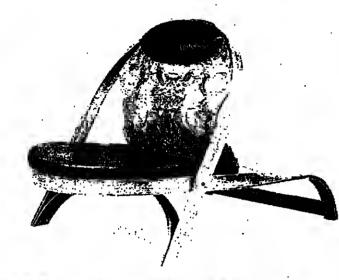
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# You could be sitting on a

John Andrew discovers some obscure objects of desire



Take a seat: This Sixties chair could fetch £3,500 at Bonham's today

investors are traditionally encouraged to pour their money into unit trusts, bonds and fund management companies, in return for which they regularly receive pieces of paper telling them by how much their savings have grown. For a minority of individuals, however, investing is as much an aesthetic question as a financial one.

Last month, Christie's of South Kensington opened its Europa Gallery with 5,000 square feet devoted to auctioning 20th century material. Today Bonhams, the pioneer of auctioning 20th century design, will be holding its minth sale to London. Sotheby's has a similar event planned for 29 and 30 October.

What is offered in these sales and who are the buyers? Virtually anything - furniture, pottery and porcelain, glass, jewellery, sculpture, prints, paintings, lighting. TVs and stereos, textiles, office equipment and household gadgets and utensils. The buyers include museums, dealers, students of design and collectors, together with people wantiog affordable "designer" furnishings for their home, plus increasing oumbers who see the oew market as a speculative puot.

At Christie's last mooth, objects placed under the hammer included Eero Aarnio's famous Ball chair of 1966, which was adopted as Number 2's chair in the cult 1960s TV series The Prisoner. Made from moulded polyester, it found a buyer at £2,760, about 10 per cent up oo prices secured for similar pieces at both Sotheby's and Christie's

One catalogue for a Bonhams auction shows 1960s typewriters selling for around £90. But hopes century silver, including pieces from the 1960s. He points out that such prices might be paid for that the market for most of the a 1960s Imperial - the first elecnewer material is in its infancy. tric portable typewriter to be "Marketing by auction houses makes it fashionable to buy pieces from a certain era," he marketed - are likely to be disappointed. It is Olivetti models that are sought, as these were styled by designers such as as Ettore Sottsass and Mario Bellini. says. "In the early days prices can soar, only to senie at lower levels

However, Vistosi glass birds designed by Allessandro Pianon,

which Christie's were selling like

hot cakes in April at £1,300-

£1,500 each, were selling last

month at £800-£900.

Likewise with furniture and lighting, it is not any old piece which is sought, but designer items that would have retailed at Liberty's, Heals and Habitat, as opposed to shops which sold purely functional productions made for mass sale. In other words, they were generally expen-

sive at the time they were bought. One of Christie's auctioneers, Mark Wilkinson, gave some clues as to what triggers demand. Two new books on Whitefriars glass and an exhibition at the Museum of Londoo have resulted in a growing interest in the subject. Consequently prices have risen. "A year or so ago vases from the Whitefriars "Knobbly" range designed by William Wilson and Harry Dyer were selling for under £20 a piece. Now the price is

around £50," Mr Wilkinson says.

Another example of an exhihition acting as a catalyst is the demand for Troika pottery. The work of a group of Cornish potters in the 1960s, it was a popular purchase by holidaymakers wanting a souveoir of the South-

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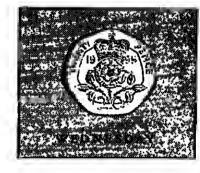
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#### CINEMA

Kate Winslet (above) star in this latest screen: on the Ichaikovsky fevourite certainly qualifies adaptation. Directed by Michael Winterbottom, as good theatre. The male swans are muscular it's e more sober affair that the mannered and witty and Lez Brotherston's set design is

A Touch of Evil Re-release of the Orson Welles classic with the great man directing and star-ring. Charlton Heston's idealistic investigator follows "lousy cop" Hank Quinlan through the murky backwaters of a Mexican border town.

Sarrasine (above) Powerful revival of Neil Don't Forget You're Going to Die Coof, blunt Bartiett and Nicolas Bloomfield's musical and startling. Xavier Beauvois' story of drug-yersion of Balzac's tale of doomed love. Sarrasine (above) Powerful revival of Neil Bartiett and Nicolas Bloomfield's musical version of Balzac's tale of doomed love. Sarrasine (above) Powerful revival of Neil Bartiett and Nicolas Bloomfield's musical version of Balzac's tale of doomed love. Sarrasine (above) Powerful revival of Neil Bartiett and Nicolas Bloomfield's musical version of Balzac's tale of doomed love. he is HIV positive.

#### THEATRE

Jude the Obscure Christopher Eccleston and Swan Lake Matthew Bourne's subversive take Austen fripperies that have been packing the stunning. Piccadilly Theatre, London to 8 Nov cinemas of late.

Marlene Pam Gem's latest bio-play has a well cast Sian Phillips as the inscrutable star of the sitver screen. Lou Gish and Billy Mathius lend solid support as Vivian Hoffman and Mutti.

Oldham Coliseum to 26 Oct Sarrasine (above) Powerful revival of Neil a romantic rampage following the discovery that played out in a darkly complex narrative. Lyric he is HIV positive.

Hammersmith to 12 Oct

#### EXHIBITIONS

Giacommeti Comprehensive exhibition of the sculptor's work (above). Along with the familiar etiolated figures are examples of the artist's earlier furtation with Surrealism. Royal Academy, London from Wed to 1 Jan

Private Eye The scumilous rag celebrates its 35th birthday with an entertaining survey of sabrical artwork, covers and cartoons. Among those on show are Steadman, Scarle and the slightly less savage talents of Willy Rushton, National Portrait Gallery to 5 Jan

David Roberts The artist-traveller journeyed widely before returning to England to paint topographical oils and watercolours that record the lost landscapes of the last century. Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh to 24 Nov

#### POP

pick of the week

Metallica Nothing pemicious about this metal, just very, very noisy. If you don't leave with bleeding ears you haven't experienced their talents to the full. A tremendously imposing show, verging on the Damascene for certain anti-metallurgists. NEC Birmingham, tonight and Sun, and touring nationally to 15

The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion (above) Punk blues played by white Americans without a bass olayer, Astoria, London Sun Gillian Welsh and John Rawlings Eleganth

bleak American folk-country, sparsely arranged but intensely played – feminine but not floral. Dublin Arts Club, Dublin tonight, Hop and Grape Manchester, Sun

#### CLASSICAL

Sir Georg Solti (above) Solti's starry Mozart concerts are always incredibly popular. Here,

nsing star Bryn Terfel moves from playing sidekick Leporello to Don Giovanni. RFH, London tonight and Mon New Queen's Hall Orchestra Something of a novelty among early music orchestras, this group focus on works from the turn of the century. At their sole London appearance this season, they will perform Elgar's Cello Concerto and, less predictably, Mahler's 4th Symphony, Barbican. their sole London appearance this season, they will perform Elgar's Cello Concern and, less predictably, Mahler's 4th Symphony, Barbican,

Norwich and Norfolk Festival The LSO play Mahler's 9th, conducted by Kent Nagano and preceded by a talk with the composer's grand-daughter. St Andrew's Hall, Norwich Thur

#### DANCE

Richard Alston (above) The world premiere of Otho. Jannis Xenalis's score for diembes (African drums) provides the pounding thathms

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tonight

Bi Ma Dance Company/Wen Hul A season of
Asian dance kicks off with this double-unit from Chinese choreographer Wen Hui and Pit fong Loh's London-based company. The Place, London fonight

### Arts and entertainment listings

#### FILM

L'AMORE MOLESTO (18) Complex murder mystery set in Naples. MGM Swiss Centre 1.20,

ANTONIA'S LINE (15) Oscar-winning drama from The Netherlands. Curcon Mayfair 1.15 (Sat), 3.30, 6.00, 8.30

BLOOD SIMPLE (18) The Coen brothers' classic thriller. ABC Piccadilly (Formerly MGM) 1.30, 3.40, 6.00, 8.20 THE CABLE GUY (12) Riotous

comedy starring Jim Carrey. Virgin Trocadero 12.05, 2.15 COURAGE UNDER FIRE (15) Gulf War drama starring Meg Ryan and Denzel Washington. Odeon West End 12.55, 3.30, 6.10, 8.45 **DEAD PRESIDENTS** (18) Brutal study of Afro-American life in the late 60s and 70s. Virgin Tro-cadero 630, 9.15, 12midnight (Sat): Warner West End 11.50 **DIABOLIQUE** (18) Contemporary

remake of Henri-Georges Clouzor's taut 1955 thriller, Les Diaboliques, Warner West End EMMA (U) New version of Austen's romantic classic, Odeon Mezzanine 1.05, 3.35, 6.10, 8.45; Virgin Haymarker 1.05, 3.35, 6.05,

8.35; Warner West End 1.20, 3.50, 6.30, 9.10 ERASER (18) Thriller starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. Virgin Trocudero 6.00, 9.00, 12mldnight (Sat); Warner West End 200, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30, 12mldnight ESCAPE FROM L.A. (15) Big budget sequel to Escape From New York, starting Kurt Russell. Empire Leic Sq 2.15, 4.40, 7.00, 9.20, 9.20, 11.45 (Sat): Virgin Tro-

cudero 5.10 THE EXORCIST (18) Classic horror. Virgin Trocadero Sat 12.20am FALLEN ANGELS (18) (subtitles)

Emotional drama set in Hong Koog. Curzon Phoenix 2.15 (Sat). FARGO (18) Coen brothers thrillet. ABC Panton St 1.30, 4.00, 6.25, 8.50; Plaza 4.05, 8.40 HOLLOW REED (15) Child custody drama. Plaza 1.30, 6.35

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME (U) Disney blockbuster. Virgin Trocadero 12.05, 2.05; Warner West End 12.10, 2.10, 4.10 THE INCREDIBLY TRUE ADVEN-TURE OF 2 GIRLS IN LOVE (15) Cootemporary romance. ABC Piccadilly (Formerly MGM) 1.30.

3.45, 6.15, 8.40 DIDEPENDENCE DAY (12) The aliens are coming!... stars Bill Pullman and Jeff Goldblum. Odeon Mezzanine 2.40, 5.30, 8.25; Firgin Trocadero 11.55am, 2.50, 5.45, 7.40, 8.45, 11.50 (Sat): Harner West End 11.50am, 2.45.

5.40, 8.50, 11.55 JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH 1U) Fantastical Roald Dahl story combining live action and animation. Virgin Trocadero 12.10, 2.10
IANE EYRE (PG) Starring John Hurt and Charlotte Gainsbourg. Barbican Cinema v.15, 8.40, Vir gin Haymarket 205, 5.10, 8.15: Barner Best End 1.00, 3.30, 6.00,

RIDE [15] New interpretation of Thomas Hardy's hleakest novel, starring Kate Winslet. ABC Tota Crt Rd 1.30, 4.05, 6.45, 9.25; Barbican Cinema 3.00 , 6.00 (Sat), S.40: Odeon Havmarket 12.40. 3.15. 5.50. 8.35: Warner West End 12,20, 3,00, 5,50, 8,40, 11,20 LAST MAN STANDING 118) Western-style remake of seminal samurai film Yojimbo, starring 1.55, 4.40, 7.10, 9.35; Plaza 1.30, 4.00, 6.25, 8.45, Uirgin Trocadero 12midnight (Sat): Warner West End 12000n, 2.20, 4.40, 7.10, 8,40, 9.40, 11.10, 12.10am THE LAST SUPPER (15) Black comedy starring Cameron Diaz. Virgin Haymarket 1.00, 3.20, 5.40 LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18) Starring Nicolas Cage as an alco-holic. ABC Panton St 1.15

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE (PG) Brian De Palma's film version ut the cult '60s TV series. Enione Leic Sq 2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 MULTIPLICITY (12) A workaholic clones himself, with amusing results. Odeon Leic Sq 2.35, 5.40, 8.25, 11.15 (Sat)

THE NUTTY PROFESSOR (12) Remake of the screwball Jerry Lewis comedy, starring Eddic Murphy. Entpire Leic Sq 12.30, 2.45, 5.00, 7.15, 9.30, 12midnight Virgin Trocadero 12.20, 2.30, 4.40, 6.55, 9.20, 12midnight (Sat)

PHENOMENON (PG) Magical tale about the power of the mind starring John Travolta. ABC Shaftesbury Ave 2.10, 5.10, 8.05 IL POSTINO (15) Sentimental love story, MGM Swiss Centre 1.35, 3.55, 6.20, 8.40 LA RECLE DU JEU 1PG1 Freach

classic, MGM Swiss Centre 1.45. 4.05, 6.30, 8.50 RICHARD III (15) lan McKellen stars in Shakespeare updated to an imaginary fascist Britaio. 4BC

Panton St 3.50, 6.15, 8.40 THE ROCK (15) Alcatraz-set adreoalin rush, starring Sean Connery and Nicolas Cage, Odeon Mezzanine 2.20, 5.35, 8.25; Warner West End 12.50, 3.45,

9.20, 12.05am SECRETS AND LIES (15) Mike Leigh's drama. ABC Panton St 1,40, 5.00, 8.00; Odean Mezzanine

2.20, 5.20, 8.20 SENSE AND SENSIBILITY (U) Emma Thompsoo stars, Odeon Mezzanine 2.30, 5.30, 8.25 SMOKE (15) Episodic New York drama starring Harvey Keitel. MGM Swiss Centre 1.20, 3.45.

6.10, 8.40 STEALING BEAUTY (15) Comingof-age saga starring Liv Tyler. ABC Shaftesbury Ave 2.40, 5.40, 8.30; Metro 1.10, 3.40, 6.10, 8.45 STRIPTEASE (15) Provocative drama starring Demi Moore. ABC Tott Crt Rd 1.30, 4.05, 6.45, 9.25; Odeon West End 12.45.

3.20, 6.05, 8.40 A SUMMER'S TALE (PG) Eric Rohmer's delicate tale of French life. Curson West End 1.20 (Sat).

3.45, 6.10, 8.35; Renoir 1.25, 3.50, A TIME TO KILL (15) Mississippi-sel thriller starring Sandra Bul-lock. Virgin Haymarket 7.50: Vir-

gin Trocadero 1.20, 5.10, 8.20; Warner West End 11.40am, 2.50. 5.45, 9.00, 12.15am

TOUCH OF EVE. (12) Orson Welles' lense 1958 detective thriller. Lumiere 1.35, 3.55, 6.20.

TRAINSPOTTING (18) Adaptation of irvine Weish's novel. Plaza 4.00, 8.40 THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (15) Comedy starring

Uma Thurman. ABC Panton St 1.30, 3.55, 6.20, 8.45; Plaza 1.50, TWISTER (PG) Rivai meteorologists tackle the largest tornado to hit Oklahoma this century. Plaza

1.00, 3.30, 6.05, 8.35 West End Booking Lines Numbers 0171 except where unted, some may levy a booking

ABC Panton St 930 0631; ABC Piccadilly (Formedy MGM) 437 3561- ABC Shaftesbury Ave 0181-836 6279; ABC Ton Crt Rd 0181-970 6032: Barbican Cinema 382 7000: Lumiere 836 0691: Metro 437 0757: Odeon Haymarket 0181-315 4212; Odeon Leic Sq 0181-315 4215; Odeon Mezzanine 315 4215: Odeon West End 0181-315 4221; Plaza 0990-930 0144; Renoir 837 8402; Virgin Haymarket 0181-839 1527; Vir-

#### gin Trocadero 434 0031; Warner West End 437 4347. repertory cinema

London EVERYMAN Hollybush Vale NW3 (0171-435 1525) The Stranger Left No Card/Alice Guy Programme 1 Sat 230pm Alice Guy Programme 2 Sat 4.40pm Kitchen Sink/Night Cries/Two Frieods Sat 6.40pm Hongfen (Blush) Sat 9pm My Father is Coming (18) Sm 11.30pm E Piccerella Sun 1.30pm The All-Round Reduced Personality [Redupers) (15) Sun 4.50pm Daisy Doodad's Dial/There's Good In The Worst Of Us/Fantasia E Surdato Sun 3pm The Germans and Their Men Stat 7pm Home Away From Home/A Tale Of Love Sun 9pm CA The Mall SWI (0171-930

Spin Sat/Sun 6.30pm Bruce Conner Movies Sat/Sun 8.30pm NFT South Bank SE1 (tl171-928

BFI South Bank Open Day Sat 10am Flipper (PG) SatiSun 4pm The Four Feathers (U) Sat 4.10pm Beautiful Thing (15) Sat 6.15pm Accident (15) Sat 6.30pm The Thief of Baghdad (U) Sar 7.30pm Letters From The East Sat 8.30pm Things To Do In Denver When You're Dead (18) The Go-Between (PG) Stat

3.40pm Trent's Last Case +

Diary Of A Nobody (PG) Sun form The Great Mr Handel (U) Sun 6.15pm Vertiga (PG) Sun 7.30pm The Pumpkin Eater Sun 8.50pm Letter From An Unknown Woman (U) Sun

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 [0171-437 8181] Babe (U) Sat Ipm Twelve Mon-keys (15) Sat 3pm Primal Fear (18) Sat 5.30pm Up Close & Personal (15) Sat Spm Trainspotting 118) Sat 10.30pm How To Make An American Quilt 115) Sun 20m Blue In The Face (15) Sun 4.30pm The Secret Of Roan Inish (U) Sun 6.30pm Leaving Las Vegas (18) Siui 9pm

RIVERSIDE Crisp Rd Wo 9 (11171-741 22551 Down By Law (15) Sat 11.45pm + Dead Man (18) 9pm Delicatesseo (15) Sun o.15pm + City

#### Of Lost Children (15) Spm THEATRE

**West End Choice** Marinees — [1]: Sun. [3]: The, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thu, [6]: Fri, [7]:

ART Albert Finney in Yasmina Reza's drama.

Wandham's Charing Cross Road. WC2 (0171-369 (736) ← Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8.00. [4] 3.00. [7][1] 5.00, £9.50-£25. 70 mins.

ASHES TO ASHES Harold Pinter's drama stars

Stephen Rca. Reval Court Theatre Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street. WC2 (0171-565 50001 € Leic Sq. Tue-Sat Spm. [5][7], 4.00, ends 26 Oct. £10, cones & mats £5.60

**FOOL FOR LOVE** Sam Shepard's acclaimed love

Story. Donnar Hardiouse Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) & Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8.00, ends 30 Nov. £12-£16.50, standby cones £8 (30 mins before perf). KINDERTRANSPORT

Ican Boht stars in Diane Samuels' drama . Vanderitle Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR & Charing X. Mon-Sat 8.00, [4][7] 3.00, £10-£23.50, previews £6.50-£20, 135

LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR Geoe Wilder in Neil Simoo's

comedy Outen's Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5590) → Picc Circ. Mon-Sal 8.00, [4] 2.30, [7] 4.00. £9 50-£25.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE: Olivier: The Alchemist Simoo Cullow in Bill Alexander's production of the bawdy Ben Jonsoo comedy

about confidence tricksters. Today 2.00 & 7.15, in rep until 26 Lytiction Seven Streams Of The River Ota

Robert Lepage's post-Hiroshima epic, Today & Sun, 245, 465 Cotteslor Blinded By The San Stephen Poliakoff's scientific detective

story stars Frances de la Tour. Today 2.30 & 7.30, 150 mins. Olivier & Lyttelton: £8-£24. Cottesloe: £12-£16. South Bank,

Londoo SE1. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE

The Barbican: A Midsummer Night's Dream Adrian Noble's acclaimed production of Shakespeare's magical fantasy. Last perfs. today 2.00 & 7.15, 180 mins.

Faust Goethe's greatest dramatic work in a new and complete versinn by Howard Brenton, Part One: last performance today 2.30, 195 mins, Part Two: last performance tonight 7.15, 180 nins, Barbican Theatre: £6-£24.50. The Pit: £10-£17. Silk Street Londoo EC2

LINCLE VANYA Bill Bryden directs Detek Jacobi in the title role of Chekhov's droll comic drama. Albery St Martin's Lane, WC2 (017] -369 (730) ← Leic Sq. Mon-

Sal 7.30, [4][7] 3.00, ends 16 Nov. WHEN WE ARE MARRIED Jude Kelly directs Dawn French and Alison Steadman in JB Priestley's comic drama. Saroy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/9) ♦ Charing X. Tue Sat 7.30, [4][7] 3.00, ends 23 Nov. £10-£25, 150

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#### **Beyond the West End**

London ALMENDA THEATRE

Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf Albee's tragi-comedy starring Diana Ring and David Suchet. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Sat 3pm, ends 26 Oct. £6.50-£19.50, cones available, Almeida Street, N1 10171-359 4404) @ Angel.

GREENWICH THEATRE The Heidi Chronicles Wondy Wasserstein's Pulitzer-winning drama follows two years in the life of an art critic, Today 2,30pm & 7,45pm, £9,25-£15,50, cones available. Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755) BR: Greenwich.

LYRIC STUDIO Horace Corneille's drama about war and suppression in Ancient Rome receives its first British staging, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Sat 4,50pm, ends 19 Oct. £8,50, cones £5. King Street, W610181-741

2311) O Hammersmith. SOUTHWARK PLAYHOUSE King Lear Jack Shepherd's intimate production of the epic tragedy stars Oliver Cotton. Mon-Sai 7pm, ends (2 Oct, £7, concs £5, Mon all seats £3, Southwark Bridge Raud, SE1 (11171-620)

3494) O Borough. WAREHOUSE THEATRE Temporary Rupture Tale of love and reveoge. Tue 6.30pm. Wed-Sat 8pm. Sun 5pm. ends 13 Oct. £4.50-£8.95. comes £5-£6. Dingwall Road, Croydon (0181-680 4060) BR: East Croydon.

YOUNG VIC Blood Wedding Ted Hughes' version of Lorca's play. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, 230pm, ends 2 Nov. £14. cones £7.50. The Cut. SE1 (0171-

928 6363) BR/ Waterloo. Around the country

THEATRE ROYAL A Doll's House Henrik Ibseo's compelling drama starring Janet McTeer. Today 230pm & 8pm. £8-£20, cones available. Sawclose

(01225-4488-141 **Brighton** KOMEDIA The Quest For Don Quixote Commotion's playful inter-pretation of Cervantes. Tonight

Som. £6-£4-50, cones £4-50-£6. Manchester St 101273-277772)

Bristol THEATRE ROYAL The Beaux Stratagem lan Hastings' production of George Farguhar's comedy of lust, love and lies, Mon-Wed 7\_30pm. Thu Sat 8pm. ends 12 Oct. £5.50-£18, cones available. King Street

(0117-987 7877) Cardiff SHERMAN THEATRE Table Manners Alan Ayckhoum's play about a wrecked family weekend. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, ends 12 Oct. £5-£10.50, cones

available. Senghennydd Road (01222-230451) Cheltenham EVERYMAN THEATRE imal Farm Northern Stage's

boldly physical version of Orwell's social satire. Tunight 8pm. £4.50-£13.50. cones available. Regent Street (t)1242-227979) Chichester

MINERVA THEATRE It Could Be Any One Of Us Old dark house thriller from Alan Avekbourn in which the solution to the mystery varies nightly. Mon-Sai 7.45pm, mats Thu & Sat 2.45pm ends 19 Oct. £14-£25. cones available. Oaklands Park

Guildford YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE Dealer's Choice Comedy about an all-male all-night poker game by Patrick Marber, Today 2,30pm &

Spm. £(0-£19.50, cones available. Millbrook (01483-140000) **Plymouth** THEATRE ROYAL

Beatrix Patricia Routledge stars

as Beatrix Potter in a one-woman

play depicting the writer's life.

directed by Patrick Garland. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, £10.50-£16.50 cones avadable. Royal Parade (01752-267222) Stratford-upon-Avon ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE Macbetts Roger Allam heads Tim Albery's production of

Shakespeare's tragedy. Last perf. today 1.30pm. £6.50-£35.50.

As You Like It Niamh Cusack makes a return to the RSC in Steven Pimlott's production. Last perf. tonight 7.30pm, £6.50-£35.50. Waterside [01789-295623]

SWON THEATRE Three Hours After Marriage Richard Cottrell directs the first major staging of Gay, Pope and Arbuthnol's comedy in 250 years. Last perf. today 1.30pm, £9-£29.50.

#### **EXHIBITIONS**

Brighton **BRIGHTON MUSEUM & ART** 

GALLERY lames Abbe Vintage photographs featuring Lilian Gish and Mae West, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 10 Nov. free. Church Street (01273-603005)

London BARBICAN ART GALLERY Blumenfeld: A Fetish For

Beauty/Jam Glumour photography alongside a multi-media exhibition. Mon. Thu-Sat 10am-6.45pm, Tue (0am-5.45pm, Wed 10am-8pm, Sun 12noon-6.45pm, ends 15 Dec. £4.50, cones £2.50 (both shows), after 5pm Mon-Fri £2.50. Silk Street, EC2 10171-63841411 O Barbican.

HAYWARD GALLERY Robert Mapplethorpe/ Antony Gorndey/ ACEI Retrospective of photographs alongside Gormley's collaborative installation of terracotta figures and Arts Council recent purchases. Mon-Sun 10am-opm (until 8pm Tue & Wed) ends 17 Nov. £5, cones £3.50 all shows, £3, cones £2 Gormley/ACE only, Belvedere Road, SE1 (0171-960 4242) Tube/BR: Waterloo.

NATIONAL GALLERY Peter Blake The Associate Artist re-interprets gallery paintings.

Ends Jan 5, free. New Acquisitions Huber's Christ taking leave of his Mother & Durer's Saint Jerome. Mon-Sal 10am-tipm (Wed until 8pm), Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 13 Oct, free. Trafalgar Sq. WC2 (0171-839

332() Charing Cross. NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY Private Eye Times 1961-96 The history of the satirical magazine explored. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm. Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 5 Jan.

St Martin's Place, WC2 (0171-306 0055) → Charing Cross.

TATE GALLERY Hans Hartung Abstract drawings. Mon-Sai 10am-5,50pm, Sun 2pm-5.50om, ends 27 Oct, free. Milibank, SW1 (0171-887 8000)

Oxford MUSEUM OF MODERN ART Scream and Scream Again Film in art including Tony Oursier and Douglas Gordon, Tue-Sun Ham-6pm (Thu until 9pm), ends 27 Oct, £2.50, concs £1.50, free Wed 11am-1pm, Thu opm-9pm. Pembroke Street (01865-722733)

COMEDY Coichester SCOTT CAPURRO AT COLCHESTER ARTS CENTRE A Perrier nominee in 1995.

Tonight 8pm, St Mary-at-the-Walls, Church Street (01206-577301) £5, concs £4. **Forgon** BOOTHBY GRAFFOE AT WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE Erstwhile Perrier nominee. Tonight 10.30pm, Brentford High

Street, Brentford (0181-568 1176) → Gunnersbury, £8. COMEDY STORE: BEST IN STAND Mark Hurst, Ivor Dembina

Smiley, Simon Bligh, Miles Crawford. Tonight Spm & 2midnight, Oxendon Street. SW1 (01426-914433) ◆ Piccadilly Circus, £10. HAMPSTEAD COMEDY CLUB AT THE WASHINGTON Simon Bligh, Noel James, Eddie Strange. Tonight 9pm, Englands Lane, NW3 (0171-483 3647) ↔

Belsize Park, £6, cones £5. HOLSTEN EXPORT BIER FEST AT BATTERSEA PARK Mark Lamarr MCs for Sir Bernard Chumley, Richard Morton, Matt Welcome, Rea Boyd and music from The Men They Couldn't Hang. Tonight 7pm, SW11 (0171-3440044) BR:

Battersea Park, £6.50.

#### London **JONGLEURS CAMDEN**

Mickey Hutton MCs for Ed Byrne, Paul E Edwards, Phill Jupitus, plus special guest. Tonight 7.15pm & 11.15pm, Chalk Farm Road, NW1 10171-924 2766) ↔ Camden Town, £10, cones £7. **JONGLEURS BATTERSEA** Tim Clark MCs for Mandy Knight, Alistair McGowan, Sean

Meo, Mark Maier, Tonight 7.15pm, LL15pm, Livender Gdns, SW11 (11171-924 2766) BR; Clapham Junction, £10, cones £7, VICTORIA WOOD AT ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Cuddly comedy capers. Tonight & Sun 8pm, Kensington Gare, SW7 (0171-589 8212) ⊕ High St Kensington, £3.50-£23.50. COMEDY STORE PLAYERS Lee Simpson, Richard Vranch, Jim Sweeney, Paul Merton, Neil Mullarkey, Sun Spm, Oxendon Street, SW1 (01426-914433)

O Piccadilly Circus, £10. PERRIER PICK OF THE FRINGE AT HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE Emmy-winning Rich Hall & Dominic Holland, Sur 7.30pm, Haymarket, SWI (0171-494

5400) O Piccadilly Circus, £5-£12 LEE HURST AT GRAND THEATRE Slap-head from They Think It's All Over Tonight Spin, Singleton

#### Street (01792-475715) £8.50-£10,

DANCE Chelmsford CIVIC THEATRE European Ballet: Carmen Passionate fully-costumed ballet sel in Seville, Sun 7,30pm, £11-£13, concs £8.50-£10.50. Fairfield

Rd101245-495028) Frome MERLIN THEATRE Jaleo: Flamenco Authentic flamenco from acclaimed company from Seville. Tonight 7.45pm, £8.50, cones £6.50. Bath

Road (01373-465949) Gloucester NEW OLYMPUS THEATRE European Ballet: Carmen Sce Chelmsford, Tonight 7.30pm.

£12.50. Barton St (01452-505089) THE BHAVAN CENTRE (BHARATTYA VIDYA BHAVAN) Srishti Niga Rajarani Dance Creations: Hidden Forces Double hill of Bharatanatyam focussing on supernatural powers. Tonight 6.30pm, £5-£7.50, concs availab

Castletown Road, W14 (0171-381 PICCADELLY THEATRE iteres la Motion Pictures: Swan Lake Matthew Bourne's actained version with a male corps of swans. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 11 Oct. £9.50-£30, standby concs available. Denman Street, W1

(0171-369 1734) → Piccadilly Circus. PLACE THEATRE Wen Hai/Bi Win Dance Comp. Dombie Bill An exploration of Hong Kong's 1997 Chinese assimilation. Tonight 8pm. £10, cones £6. Duke's Road, WC1 (0171-387 0031) + Euston. QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL ance Umbrella 96: Richard Aiston Dance Company Exciting mixed bill including the World

South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 42421 BR/ Waterloo. Salisbury SALISBURY ARTS CENTRE Janet Smith & Dancers: Chlaroscuro & Touching Zuin Acclaimed double-bill from Smith's 20th anniversary

Premiere of Okho. Tonight & Sun

7.45pm\_£10-£14, concs £6-£12

#### tour. Tonight Spm. £6, cones £5. Bedwin Street (01722-321744) CLASSICAL

**Basingstoke** THE ANVIL London Mozart Players/Bamert Field's 4th Piano Concerto with Mozart's 39th Symphony. Sun 7.45pm, £8.50-£18.50, Churchill

Way (01256-844244) Bristol VICTORIA ROOMS Braboel Ensemble/Austin Ravel's G major Piano Concerto with Vaughan Williams' 5th Symphony. Sat 7.30pm. £7, concs £4. Queen's Rd 101222-563676)

#### BARBICAN HALL London Mozart Players/Bamer Julian Bream plays Brouwer's

Converto Elegineo. Tonight Som. '.30pm, £11). LSO/Nagano Barbara Hendricks sings Strauss' Free Last Songs with Mahler's 9th Symphony, Sun witt-will duck 3.30pm. £6-£30. New Queen's Hall Orchestra/Magnire Elgar's Cello Concerto with Mahler's 4th

Semphony, played on period instruments. Sun 7.3llpm. £7-£31. Barbican Centre, EC2 [0171-638 8891) Moorgate. PURCELL ROOM James Usney A Chopin recital taking in the Funeral Murch Sonata, Tonight 7,30pm, £10, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-

960 4242) BR & Waterloo. ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL Jessye Norman The legendary soprano in a celebrity recital. Sun 5pm. £3-£50. South Bank Centre, SE1 (III71-

960 4242) BR/ Waterloo. WIGMORE HALL Nash Ensemble Works by Ravel, Saint-Spens and Tcharkovsky. Tonight 7.30pm. £6-£14. Rachmaninov Trio Trius by Brahms, Shostakovich and Rachmaninov, Sun 7pm, £6-£13. Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935

#### 2141) O Bond Street. Windsor ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL idemy of St. Martin in The Fields/Sillito Concerti by Handel and Vivaldi with Tchaikovsky's

Serenade for Strings, Tunight

8.15pm, £9.50-£15.50. (01753-623-000) **OPERA** 

Cardiff NEW THEATRE: WNO The Doctor of Myddfal Maxwell Davies' new opera to David Pountney's librette and

production. Tonight 7,15pm. £8-£34. Park Place (01222-878889) London LONDON COLISEUM: ENO La Traviata English National Opera opens its new season with

new production of Verdi's drama, directed by Jonathan Miller, Sat 6, 30pm, 16,50-155. **ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL: LONDON** PHILHARMONIC Don Giovanni Sir Georg Solti conducts a coocert performance

of Mozart's opera, with Bryn Terfel as the Don. Tunight 7pm £7-£40. South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR- Waterloo. ROYAL OPERA HOUSE Die Wallqure Richard Jones's production of Wagner for the Royal Opera, conducted by Bernard Haitink, Tonight 4pm. £7-£147.50, Coveot Garden, WC2

#### Cove of Garden POP

(0171-304-4000)

Bristo The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion Blues-abuse and punkabilly from the theremin-toting Pussy Galure man. The Fleece St Thomas St

(0117-927 7150) Tonight 7.30pm, phone for availability. Cambridge Space Ecceptric Liverpudlian pop band. The Junction Clifton Road

(01223-511511) Sun 7,30pm, £6. London The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion Blues-abuse and punkabilly from the theremin toting Pussy Galore man. Astoria Charing

Cross Road WC2 (0171-434 04031 O Touchham Court Road, Sun 70m. £8. Blue Mae Paul Buchanan's ambient pop team play their new album, Peace At Last, Longlan Palladium Argell Street W1 (0171-494 5020:5038) Oxford

£16,50, **Norwich** Ocean Colour Scene Moddy Birmingham retro-rockers, Uti-

Circus. Sun 7.30pm, £[4.5]]-

(01603-505401) Sun 7-30pm, £10. Oxford Bise Nie Paul Buchanan's ambient pop team play their new album, Peace At Last, Apollo Theatre George Street (01865-244544) Tonight 7.30pm, £12.50.

versity of East Anglia The Plain

Levellers Crusty folk-ruckers tour on the back of a live album. Headlights, White Lines, Black Tar Rivers, Rivermead Richfield Avenue (01734-591501) Tonight

Southampton The Lighthouse Family British Guildhall NorthGuild, Commercial Road SO 101703-6326011

Tonisht 7.50pm, £10.50. Wolverhampton Kola Shaker Sixties characted parchedelia-tinged pop band. Creic Hall North Street (01902)

#### 312(30) Tonight 7.30pm, £7.

jazz, world, folk etc Brighton Martin Taylor's Spirit Of Diago Gypsy jazz gustar wizard with saxist Dave O'Higgins and veteran accordingist Jack Emblow. Sullis Renney Treater University

of Brighton, Grand Parade (01273-709709) Sun Spm. 19, comes £7, Bristoi Gary Crosby's Na Troop Jazz Jamaica's bassist with the cream of young black jazz talent. Albert

Inn West Street (0117-966 1968) Sun Spin, Lo, comes £5, London Clyde Stubblefield James Brown much-sampled Funky Drummer plays for the Soho Jazz Festival. 12 Bar Club Dennank Street

WC2 (0171-916 6489) € Tottenham Court Road, Tonlght & Sun. Spm. £10. Freddy Cole Trio Nat King Cole's little bray sings the faves. Cole Roral Regent Street W1 (III71-437 0000) & Piccadilly Circus. Conteht Sont, ends 14 Call & Co Alfredo Rodriguez Behop-edeed Cuban salsa pianist, HON West Yard NW1 10171-485 60441 €

Camden Town, Tonight Spm. Etc. £4 before 10pm. Keziah Jones Funk-edged acoustic guitarist and singer from Nigeria. L42 Charing Cross Rd WC2 [0171-434 0403) ← Toltenham Court Rd. Tonight 7pm, £8. Blossom Dearle Witty American cabaret singer. University College School Thearn Frognal NW3 (0171-435 2215) & Finchley

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#### Road, Tonight & Snn. 7.45pm. £8, adv £6.

LITERATURE Bracknell Park and Write: South Hill Park Literature Festival '96 Poetry. plays, debates and discussions. South Hill Park Arts Centre Ring-

mead (01341-484123) Times vary. ends 27 Oct, phone for details. Torrington . Lit Up! 96: North Devou's Literature Festival Workshops and performances from an array of literary stars. Lit Up! 96 Information Various Venues (01805-624h24) From today, times vary, ends 12

#### Oct, phone for details.

**EVENTS** Beaconsfield 30th Wooburn Arts Festival Concerts, exhibitions, theatre and children's events, Various Vinues (10628-524243) Times vary, ends

20 Oct. Phone for details, Guildford 29th Surrey Antiques Fair Longestablished fair with wide range of objects for sale. Civic Hall

7pm, £3-£4, gala evening £10. <u>London</u> Dartmouth House Antiques & Brocante Fair Wide range of silver, jewellery, gl.es, Partmouth House Charles St W1 (0171-493 33281 O Green Pk. Sun Itlam-4.30pm, £1.20, child free. Children's Book Week Literary adventures . Lince Ren. Revel Fes-

mal Hall South Bank SE ( (017)-960 4242) BR, & Waterloo. Today, phone for defails, £2.50. Reading Sooty's Circus Souty and friends entertain lans of all ages, Headgon Town Ffall, Blagrave Street

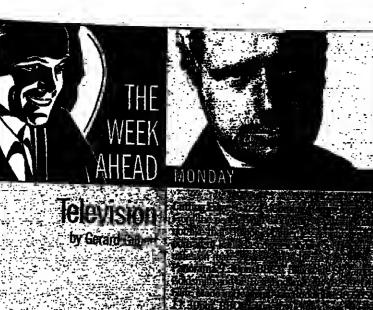
(01734-591591) Today (tanta Ipm & 3.30pm, £5 50-£6.50. Swansea Swansea Cettic Festival Inalitional dancing, earlis, felk, sports events. Engless vermes 101792-(136461) From Sun, times vary.

ends 12 Oct, phone for details.

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acsort of information, the

Frasier 10pm C4 (above). Diametes turns up from Frasier's Boston berfly as spin-off pays homage to its predict series. Spin-off pays home spin-off pays home spin-off pays home spin-off pays home. one of her linest performances as Day Adventist in the centre of the real-life dingo-ate-my-haby case (Film: My Little Chickades (Edward Place) US) 12.30am BBC2. Spoof western Mae West and W C Fields (1047154)

Third Words 9.35pm R3. The celebration of the Third Programme Piers Plowright, the best features product working in this country, looking at the way that his predecessors extended radio's range.

### Sunday television and radio

#### BBC<sub>1</sub>

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EVENTS

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The second section

6.50 TIME The Spy with My Face (John Newland 1966 US). Thrush clone a double of Napoleon Solo. With David McCallum (4.142525). 8.15 20 Steps to Better Management (1640761). 8.30 Breakfast with Frost. Prime Minister John Major

by Robert Hanks there is the second

sets out his stall (26542). 9.30 Heart to Heart (S) (1092728). 9.45 First Light (S) (938254). 10.15 See Hear! (S) (920235). 10.45 Deutsch Plus (S) (1123709).

11.00 The Eleventh Hour (S) (79728).

12.00 CountryFite (S) (30254). 12.30 On the Record. 8rian Mawhinney (42780), \* 1.30 EastEnders Omnibus (R) (S) (7926780), \*

2.55 Columbo (S) (8416322),
4.05 Junior Masterchef 96. The first semi-final. The Judges are Jeff Bland, executive chef of Cameron House, and Ronnie Corbett (S) (8585525), \*
4.35 People's Century. Witnesses of the first American atomic tests, scientists who built the Soviet bomb, and supplied the semi-final and survivors of Hiroshima and Chemobyl all offer

their views on the nuclear age (S) (6516612).
5.30 News, Weather (381693), \*
5.50 Regional News (583525).
5.55 Songs of Praise, Joins Dr Christiaan Barnard In

South Africa (S) (867438), \*

South Arrica (S) (867438). \*
6.25 The Nation's Favourite Poems (S) (525934).
6.30 The Great Antiques Hunt, Jilly Goolden and churns hit Eton College (S) (340983). \*
7.15 Pie in the Sky (5) (424544). \*
8.05 Birds of a Feather (R) (900983). \*
8.35 The Legacy of Reginald Pentin (S) (156235). \*
9.05 Rhodes. 4/8. Martin Shaw continues to carve up Africa (S) (365029). \*

Africa (S) (365029). + 10.00 News, Weather (190457). \* 10.15 Clive Anderson All Talk. With Eddie Murphy and Ben Elton, See Preview, p28 (S) (692506). Heart of the Matter, This month parliament

expected to consider new plans to compel. paedophiles to register with the police when they move home. But, asks Joan Bakewell, do these safeguarding proposals go far enough? (291051).

11.30 IDEN The Grissom Gang (Robert Aldrich 1971 US). Dark, long and brutal reworking of No Orchids for Miss Blandish which sees a 1930s heiress kidnapped by a gang of grotesques, who then proceed to fall in love with her. Stars Kim

Darby and Scott Wilson (22702490). \* 1.35 Heliday Outings (Then Weather) (2364216).
1.50 The Road to the White House 1996: The Presidential Debates. The first of three meetings between President Bill Clinton and Republican challenger Bob Dole (S) (246007).
REGIONS. Wales: 12.00pm Homeland. Scots 12.00pm Landward.

#### BBC2

7.30 Children's BBC: Joe 90. 7.55 Playdays. 8.15 Bitsa. 8.30 Jacksmory Gold. 8.45 X-Men. 9.10 Eek the Cat. 9.20 The Itsy Bitsy Spider. 9.40 The Mask. 10.05 Ship to Shore. 10.35 Grange Hill, 11.00 The Demon Headmaster.

11.25 Small World. German short (S) (9755525).
11.45 Small World. German short (S) (9755525).
1948 US). No, not Cliff Richard on board a Routenaster, but a pretty horrible version of Eugene O'Neill's nostalgic cornedy about adolescence, Ah Wilderness!. Mickey Rooney muga his way through the lead role of the young

man troubled by school and first love (308544) 1.15 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe Special, The 1.30 Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp, the 2.05 Prix Marcel Boussac and at 2.50 – the Prix de l'Arc de

Boussac and at 2.50 -- the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. See The big race, p28 (50618983), 3.20 IBIEM Hell Boats (Paul Wendkos 1970 UK/US), Clapped-out war movie sends American James Franciscus to destroy a supposedly impregnable Nazi bomb base in Sicily (20154419), 4.55 Rugby Special (S) (6518070). 5.55 The Natural World. (New Series) The secret life of the sperm whale (S) (149998), \* 6.45 Star Trek: Voyager (336780). \* 7.30 Promised Land, How the life and culture of Chicago began to change with the Influx from the

Chicago began to change with the influx from the Deep South (s) (664235). \*

8.20 The Money Programme. The insurance industry's bid to access genetic information about prospective clients (s) (568273). \*

9.00 It Happened Next Year (R) (S) (1070). \*
9.30 Where's Elvis This Week? Four celebrity guests
try to explain Americans to the English, and
English to the Americans (S) (79631).

10.00 Roadracers (Robert Rodriguez 1994 U5). The first entry in a new season called "The Young and the Reckless", in which contemporary filmmakers remake Fifties drive-in movies. Heavens know why. In this one, Arquette sibling, David, plays a rebellious teenager who falls foul of the local sheriff (S) (41032). \*

11.30 INSTANTANT (S) (4.10.3.2).

11.30 INSTANTANT (S) (4.10.3.2).

Subtle and insightful study in betrayal concerns a gifted planist (Romane Bohringer) in wartime Paris who manages to escape to England with her employer, a renowned opera diva (Then Weatherview) (386099). To 1.25am.

2.00 The Learning Zone: Work is a Four-Letter Word (61133). 4.00 Languages: French Experience II (91945). 5.00 Business and Work (34262). 5.30 Business Matters (52571). \* REGIONS. Wales: 4.55pm Scrum. 5 10.00 The Hollow State. 10.50 Film: Roadracers. Scot: 4.55pm Sportscene Rugby Special.

### **ITV/London**

6.00 GMTV: 6.00 The Sunday Review. 6.30 News, Sport and Weather. 7.00 The Sunday Programme

8.00 Dragon Flyz. Animation (1065254). 8.25 Disney Club. There's a new boy band on the block, Damage, and here they are (S) (56320186).

10.15 Link. Schizophrenia (S) (4982612). \*
10.30 Morning Worship. From Whalley Range Church in Manchester (S) (33032). \* 11.30 Heavenly Voices. A Christian rock service and Jane Asher's taste in religious music (3092902).

Jane Asher's taste in religious music (3092902).

11.50 Your Faith and Mine. A young Jew from Cardiff visits a mosque in Newcastle (S) (7980885).

12.30 Crosstalk (Followed by LWT Weather) (53693).

1.00 News and Weather (84028029). \*

1.10 Jonathan Dimbleby. Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell MP (S) (5916506).

2.00 War and Remembrance (R) (2438),
4.00 IIIIA The Hindenburg (Robert Wise 1975 US).
Oscar-laden (for its special effects) historical disaster movic, positing that the great airship

disaster movie, posting that the great airship disaster was caused by sabotage, George C Scott and Anne Bancroft lead the cast (70131693), 6.05 Local News, Weather (935964), \* 6.25 News and Weather (738148), \* 6.35 The Cosby Mysteries (551902), \* 7.30 Heartbeat, The Sodies coppers investigate a case of hit and run (\$) (94167), \* 8.30 You've Been Framed! (\$) (4186), \* 9.00 London's Burning (\$) (3167) \*

9.00 London's Burning (S) (3167). 10.00 Tarrant on TV (S) (26051). \* 10.30 News and Weather (Followed by LWT Weather) (136235). \*

10.45 The South Bank Show. Melvyn Bragg talks to Norman Mailer about his book, Portrait of Picasso as a Young Man. See Preview, p.28 (S) (738506), \*
Theatreland. (New Series) Emma Freud returns with the theatre magazine. Up for discussion are Vanya, starring Derek Jacobl, and Blood Wedding at the Young Vic (231998).

12.15 The Practice. Caroline Quentin narrates this fly-on-the-wall documentary series tooking at life in an inner-city doctors' surgery (R) (76755).

12.45 Murder, She Wrote (R) (6565910).

1.40 (1985) Johnny Handsome (Walter Hill 1989 US).

1.40 Island Johnny Handsome (Walter Hill 1989 US).
 Disfigured criminal Mickey Rourke is given a new face in prison, and, once free, sets out to avenge himself on his old gang. Nasty, brutish and long, co-starring Ellen Barkin, Elizabeth McGovern and Forest Whitaker (S) (251939).

 3.25 Not Fade Away. Timmy Mallett (R) (7425649).
 4.20 Night Shift (R) (S) (92035281).

4.35 Flux (R) (S) (4150026). 5.30 News (56397). To 6.00am.

#### Channel 4

6.05 Blitz! (R) (S) (3828983). 7.15 Ric (55341). 7.45 Biker Mice from Mars (4890612). 8,10 Earthworm Jim (S) (9449964). 8.35 Street Sharks (S) (8388780).

9.00 Insektors (S) (5737506). 9.20 Saved by the Bell (R) (2622341). \*

9.20 Saved by the Bell (R) (2622341). \*
9.45 Sister Sister (S) (921964).
10.15 Happy Days (R) (5146051).
10.40 Hollyoaks Omnibus (R) (3) (9877341). \*
11.40 The Wattons (R) (3640341). \*
12.40 The Wattons (R) (3640341). \* star, Montgomery Clift, had a disfiguring car accident in the middle of filming. And it shows, Elizabeth Taylor gives a sweet performance as the Southern belle married to Clift's Yankee abolitionist (80749235). \*

3.40 Travelog Treks (S) (9151001). \*
4.00 Brookside Omnibus (Followed by News Summary

and Weather) (R) (S) (8003915). \* 5.05 TIME The Kentuckian (Burt Lancaster 1955 U5). Lancaster's only outing as a director also marked Walter Matthau's movie debut, it's a western about a father and son wandering Texas in search

of a new life (25649877). \*
7.00 Equinox: Staying Alive. Looking at such high-profile disasters as the sinking of the ferryboat, Estonia and the Manchester air disaster. Denman Rooke's film asks whether survivors are just plain lucky or whether they possess different mental faculties than those who perished? See Preview, p28 (5525).

8.00 Nothing But the Truth. A gay couple who want to adopt a child (S) (4273). \*

9.00 Leaving Home. Simon Rattle continues his controversial tour of 20th-century orchestral

force -- rhythm, by way of Stravinsky, Varese, Nancarrow, Boulez and Messiaen (S) (1709). \* 10.00 TIME Mr Saturday Night (Billy Crystal 1992 US). See The big picture, p28 (S) (85579254). \* 12.15 Erotic Tales. Continuing the series where

international directors explore the concept of eroticism, acclaimed Indian director, Mani Kaul, draws on a range of classical sources for his tale of love in ancient Rajasthan (74397). \*

12.45 Partners, US sitcom, Owen runs into his old flame (S) (73668). \*

1.15 Diary for My Father and Mother (Marta Meszaros 1990 Hun). Third part of Marta Meszaros's personal trilogy presenting an intimate depiction of the Hungarian anti-Soviet uprising of 1956. In Hungarian with subtitles (S) (47332842). To 3.20am.

#### **ITV/Regions**

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CMMHEL 1 BURTH FAST/MORISHINE
As London except: 12.30pm Kr/kr, Coast on Sunday
(33.701/48), 2.00 Murdor, She Wrote (92.795-4/1, 2.55
Carton Time (6783-435), 3.00 Films Murder by the Book
(53275-73), 4.45 Channel 3 North East readqued DSV
(1514-167), Yarke Sturmasters (713032), 5.15 Kryls-SeaQuest DSV (4308506), 11.45 Film: Mariyn and Ma (186180), 1.30am Film: Prem Decucine (93665668), 4.35-5.30am Jobinder (4150026).

CHIROL.

As London except 2.00gm; 24 Hours (5815). 2.30 Films.

Bear Island (26947099). 4.45 Euristye (713032). 5.15

Our House (743273). 5.45 Central Socret (340148).

11,45 Warran Remembrance (6355061. 4.35 Johnson et (6350674). 5.20-5.30am Asian Eye (5595194).

ITY
As London except: 12.25pm West, West Match Plus
(8793568). Wakes Soccer (8793568), 2.00 West, 3ccs
son in the Sun (29235). Wakes Welst Agenda (5215).
2.30 Wakes Primetime Drary (148), 3.00 Emmedisle
(4908525). 3.50 Film; The Natural (38300505). 1,145
Film: Rockloben The is Elvir (636506). 1,40am The
Loop (6674484). 2,10am Melosport (9798587).
2.40am Film: Business (8362434), 3,10am Cyber Cafe
(37613026). 3.40-4.35am The Come Hour (6796755)

AS London except: 12.30pm 7 Days (913-186), 2.00 The Fier (27939-525), 2.25 The Listings (810-659-83), 2.30 Held in Tinst (1-81), 3.00 Champions of the Future (4322), 3.30 Film: Ambush at Tomohawk Cap (281-659), 4.50 The Great South Run (8-386-31), 5.20 Hose Tinsk (65-40167), 5.50 The Village (85-8235), 11-45 Film: Rockhober: Tins is Elvis (63-6506), 1.40em The Loop (66-74484), 2.10em Motosport (97-88587), 2.40em Future Business (83-62-48-1), 3.10em Cyber Cafe (37-61-3026), 3.40-4.35em The Come Hour (67-967-55).

WESTOCHTEY
As London ercape: 12.25pm (Verkeng Match (8793588).
2.25 Sunday Best (27932612). 2.55 Films Doctor at
See (28514438). 4.45 Carbon (8426148). 4.50 Highway to Heaven (1507480). 5.45 Timssums (742544).
11.45 Films Rocktober: This is Elvis (636506). 1,40 am
The Loop (6674484). 2.10 am Motorsport (9785587).
2.40 am Furry Business (8362484). 3,10 am Cyber Cale
(37613026). 3.40-4.35 am The Crime Hour (6796755).

540 As C4 except: 6.05am American Frontirali (3828983). 10.15 Hoppy Days (5146051). 10.40 Hollycaks (9877341). 11.40 Waltons (3640341). 12.40 Rownd a Rownd (332025). 1.10 Team Tymor (4623186). 2.10 Rap (27928419). 2.35 Talk About Wesh (1623308). 3.00 Brookside (5419). 4.00 Party of Five (7754). 5.00 News (2725693). 5.05 Manifesia (8438983). 5.35 Pobot Y Cwm (33609254). 7.30 Dedmay Cane, Dedmay Cannol (983). 8.00 Dros Ben Lestre (559525). 8.35 technol (983). 8.00 Dros Ben Lestre (599525). 8.35 technol (983). 4.920 News (221709). 9.30 Subst (71709). 10.00 Film: Rising Sun (47600815). 12.20-1.25am Leaving Home (1181552).

#### Radio

7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 Dave Pearce 2.00 Trayor Nelson's Rhythm Nation 4.00 UK Top 40 7.00 Kershaw in South Africa 8.00 John Peel 10.00 Andy Kershaw 12.00 Mary Anne Hobbs 4.00-7.00am Clive

(88-90.2Mtb Rd)
7.00am Don Mactean 9.05 Sunday
Love Songs 11.00 Parkinson's Sunday
Love Songs 11.00 Parkinson's Sunday
1.00 Desmond Carrington 3.00
Benny Green 4.00 Singing in Britain
with Aled Jones 4.30 Sing Something Simple 5.00 Pam Ayres 7.00
Hugh Scully 8.30 Sunday Half Hour
9.00 Alan Keith 10.00 David Jecols 11.00 Rhyme and Reason. cobs 11.00 Rhyme and Reason. See Choice. 12.05 Adrian Finighan 3.00-7.00am Steve Madden

#### Radio 3

1902-92-44Hiz Filib 7.00am Sacred and Profane. 8.50 Choice of Three. Sir Peter Hail previews the week on Radio 3. 9.00 Brian Kay's Sunday Morning. 12.15 Music Matters. 1.00 Great French Dishes. Oeufs en

Meurette. Leslie Forbes joins cale-brated chef Jean-Pierre Billoux and vineyard owners the Seysses to discover the significance of memory in taste and smell. 1.25 Gerhard, Ravel and Stravinsky. Gerhard: Don Quixote. Ravel: Sheherazade. Stravinsky: Suite:

3.10 Three Score Years and Ten.
3.15 Spirit of the Age.
4.15 Celebrity Recital: Endellion The Firebird.

Quartet. 5.45 The Envy of the World. Rudely Truncated. Humphrey Carpenter considers the range of the Third Programme.
6.30 Britten Sinfonia. Three works which show how Gerhard's development of the control of the contro

opment as a composer was af-fected by his native Catalan traditions.
7.30 The Sunday Play: Henry IV
Part One. Robert Hardy stars as
Sir John Falstaff, Shakespeare's larger-than-lite comic creation, who sees it as his duty to educate the young Prince of Wales in the vices of the tavern.

vices of the tavern.

10.15 Choir Works.

11.15 The Snow on the Mountain, the Bird on the Lake. Sara Nuttall introduces music from the ancient Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, including excepts from Buddhist festivals, musical gatherings and love songs, and the sound of the Bhutanese lute.

Roger McGough (left) ushers in Thursday's National Poetry Day with Rhyme and Reason (11pm R2), in which celebrities talk about "what poetry means to me". Poetry Please! (5.30pm R4) has celebs, including Barbara Castle and Penelope Frizgerald, on why they love William Morris.

11.45 Record Review. 1.00 Through the Night. 5.00-6.80am Sequence.

Radio 4 (92.4-94.6MBz FM; 198Mbz (94) 6.00am News Briefing. 6.10 Something Understood. 6.55 Weather. 7.15 On Your Farm.

7.40 Sunday. 8.50 The Week's Good Cause. 8.55 Weather. 9.00 News. 9.10 Sunday Papers. 9.15 Letter from America.
9.30 Morning Service. Mess from St.
Leo the Great RC Church, Glasgow. 10.15 The Archers.

11.45 Books and Company. 12.15 Desert Island Discs. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 The World This Weekend. 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 Gardener's Question Time.

2.30 The Classic Serial: Dombey and Son. By Charles Dickens. Concluding the classic tale of a man undone by pride. 3.30 Pick of the Week. 4.15 We Do It Differently Here.

4.15 We Do it Differency Frenc.
Power to the People.
5.00 News; Fritz Spiegr's Suburb.
5.30 Poetry Pleasal Celebrating the poetry of William Monts to mark the centenary of his death. See Choice.
5.50 Shipping Forecast.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 Sk O'Clock News. 6.15 Gerry's Ber. Closing Time. 6.30 in Business. Foreign Focus. 7.00 Children's BBC Radio 4: The Silver Chair. By C S Lewis.

7.30 De Profundis. 8.00 (FM) The Natural History Programme. 8.00 (LW) Deutsch Plus. 8.30 (IW) Suence - Spenish 1. 8.30 (FM) That's History. 9.00 (FM) Fourth Column Revisited. 9.00 (LW) Suenos - World Spanish 2

9.15 (LW) Francophonie.

9.30 (FM) Bodies of Evidence.

#### Choice

9.59 Weather. 10.00 News. 10.15 All in the Mind.

10.45 Breaksway. 11.15 The Spirit of America. 11.45 Seeds of Faith. 12.00 News. 12.20 Bells on Sunday. From West-

12.20 Bells on Sunday. From West-minster Abbey.
12.30 Late Story. Love and Death in Languedoc. Written and read by Christopher Hope.
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00-6.00am As World Service.

(883, 909kfk left) 6.05am Brief Lives 6.30 Brian Haves 5.Usam Shar Tues 0.30 bhan Fayes 9.05 Sunday with Mair 11.35 Spe cial Assignment 12.05 Big Byte 12.30 Cirne Desk 12.55 Lineker's Sunday Sport 5.05 Sportscall 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Box 8.05 Clear the Air 8.35 Mr Smith Goes to. 9.00 Dailyn Worldwide 10.05 Acid Test 10.35 Out This Week 11.00 Night Extra 11.35 SportsAmerica 12.05 Night Moves 2.05 Up All Night 5.00-6.00am Morning Reports

Classic FM

(100 0 101 SMEZ PM) \_ 7.00am Sarah Lucas. 9.00 Classic Romance, 12.00 Calebrity Choice, 1.00 Alan Mann, 3.00 Masterclass. 4.00 Mel Cooper. 7.00 Classic Countdown Top 10, 8.00 World Opera, 12.00 Andre Leon, 4.00-6.00am Mark Griffiti's.

(1215, 197-1260k) NV (6.88k) RQ 6.00am John Hipper 10.00 Graham Dene 2.00 Nicky Home 6.00 Lynn Parsons 10.00 Gary Davies 2.00-6.00am Jeremy Clark

World Service 1984b IV6 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 Development 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 Development
96 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Seeing Stars 2.45 On the
Move 3.00 Newsdey 3.30 Trip to
Death and Back 4.00 News 4.15
Sports 4.30 Jazz for the Asking 5.00
Newsdesk 5.30 Off the Shell: Heatwave 5.45-6.00am Country Style

#### **Satellite**

SN 1
6.00am Hour of Power (85902),
7.00 Undun (5173235), 12.00 Hit Mix (90148), 1.00 Star Tirek (86915), 2.00 Manvel (70983),
3.00 Robocop (54835), 4.00 WWF (18070), 5.00 Great Escapes (7815), 5.30 Power Ranges (3728), 6.00 Simpsons (3341),
6.30 Simpsons (4693), 7.00 Beverly Hits 90210 (53631), 8.00 X Pies Re-Opened (39051), 9.00 A Mind to Kill (49938), 11.00 Manhunter (23439), 12.00 60 Minutes (76215), 1.00 CWI Wars (93736), 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix (30587).

SR72 7.00pm Xens (4416815). 8.00 Meirose Place (4492235). 9.00 Profit (4412099). 10.00 Politergrish (4415186). 11.00 Seinfeld (2003235). 11.30 Who Do You Do? (1375631). 12.00 Roadle (2179378). 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix Long Play (6230674).

SIXY MOMES 381 MOVIES
381 MOVIES
400 Days to Rio (1933)
(74544). 8.00 One on One (1977)
(51235). 10.00 Widows' Peak
(1994) (15457). 12.00 8 Seconds
(1994) (84185). 2.00 The Enemy
Within (1994) (1254). 4.00 Pet
Shop (1994) (1254). 6.00 Little Big
League (1994) (23490). 8.00 The
Haunting of Helen Walker (1995)
(35235). 10.00 Disclosure (1994)
(50093070). 12.10 Soffbalo for 2 (60083070), 12.10 Softwire for 2 (1994) (292945), 1.55-5.00am The Sand Pebbles (1966)

MOVIE CRAWNEL 6.00am Casck Up (1945) (72186). 6.00am Casck Up (1945) (72186). 8.00 To See Such Fun (1977) (69877). 10.00 Spring Finel (1995) (13099). 12.00 The Happy Thieses (1962) (82728). 2.00 Wayne's World 2 (1993) (88761). 3.30 Edmene Close-Up: Tom Amold (7167). 4.00 A Home of Our Own (1994) (9895). 6.00 Heart and Souls (1993) (21032). 8.00 Wayne's World 2 (1993) (33877). Wayne's World 2 (1993) (33877). 10.00 Forbidden Choices (1994) (968457). 11.40 Movie Show (742070), 12.10 The House of the Spirits (1994) (12972303), 2.30 Decadence (1993) (33129), 4.00-6.00am Foreign Student (1994)

an munical studies of the Limit (1943) (4191-4998), 12.35 Great (1943) (4191-4998), 12.35 Great (1943) (4794-473), 425 Tom, Dick and Harry (1941) (10205341), 6.00 Rooster Cochum (1975) (22772) Rooster Cogbum (1975) (22772). 8.00 Throw Monma from the Train (1987) (17877). 10.00 Midnight Run (1988) (31167964). 12.10

#### The Glass Menagerie (1950) (472129), 2.00 Yenti (1983) (87744281). 4.15-5.50em The Fleet's In (1942) (161804).

TEX GOLD UK GUJ 7.00am Record Breakers (7223490), 7.30 Blue Peter (7242525), 8.00 Animal Magic (7694612), 8.30 Jackanory (5512490), 8.45 Camberwick Green (5540273), 9.00 Survivors 4998490), 10.00 Blate's Seven (61950964), 11.05 Dr Who (52794186), 1.10 Films Carry on England (1976) (93035457), 3.00 The Bill (46101380), 5.20 Porridge (5935186), 6.00 Ken Dodd (7852308), 7.00 Dick Emery (8269963), 7.30 After the Show (5952032), 8.00 Policak (97836032), 9.05 Blott on the

(5952032), 8.00 Poldark (97836032), 9.05 Bott on the Landscape (23728254), 10.15 Op-penheimer (65084512), 11.30 Crimes and Misdemenours (1969) (8237419), 1.20-7.00am Shopping at Night (5224194).

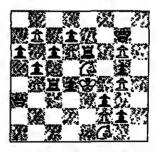
STREETS AND 7.00am los Hockey (668896). 9.30 Surfing (97877). 10.30 Drag Racing (60544). 11.00 Goals on Sunday (28032). 12.00 Darts (359896), 3,00 Horse of the Year (35896), 300 Hose in the feat Show (51631), 5.00 Goals (9438), 6.00 Futbol Mundiel (6457), 6.30 Darts (584235), 9.00 NFL (474544), 12.00 Golf (38026), 2.00-4.00am Başletball (86823).

SET SPORTS 2 7.00am Soccer Extra (5993916). 10.30 Superbiles (1752032). 12.00 Watersports (3954457). 1.00 Golf (3930877). 2.00 Super 1.00 Golf (393/0877), 2,00 Super-blies (94/05780), 3,30 Drag Racing (447/2877), 4,00 Golf (394/3341), 7,00 Basietbail (988/4780), 9,00 Sperish Football (832/23/23), 11,00 Golden Gloves (988/0964), 12,00 1,00am US PGA Golf (33/49755),

LINETY
6.00am Revelations 6.30 Looking for Love 7.00 Spanish Archer 7.30 Mind and Body 8.00 Why 8.30 Video Box 9.00 Fate and Fortune 9.30 Fastion 10.00 Revelations 10.30 Looking for Love 11.00 Mind and Body 11.30 Spanish Archer 12.00 Revelations 12.30 Why Files 1.00 Looking for Love 1.30 Fate and Fortune 2.00 Sport Live 3.00 Carery Wharf 4.30 Galfs Capers 5.00 Revelations 5.30 Looking for Love 6.00 Fastion 6.30 Sport 7.00 Spanish Archer 7.30 Revelations 5.30 Sport 7.00 Spanish Archer 7.30 Revelations 5.30 Archer 7.30 Revelations 5.3 Spenish Archer 7.30 Revelations
Spenish Archer 7.30 Revelations
8.00 Fate and Fortune 8.30 Missing
Pesons 9.03 Why Files 9.30 LookIng for Love 10.03 Sport 10.30
Stand Up - Uke 11.03 Fate and Fortune 11.30 Sex Show 12.006.00am Night-Time Programmes

#### **Pastimes**

#### Chess William Hartston



The great chess match-fixing scandal of '96 all began in the diagram position. In was White's move and the flurry of bets on a draw.

being reset as in the diagram and the players forced to do something different under pain of a double default.

bookies suddenly reported a Sure enough, after just three more moves on each side, White was stalemated. Of course, there was a stewards' enquiry, which resulted in the position

But again after three moves each, White was stalemated. The stewards then set up the same position for a third time. Once again, after three moves on each side it was stalemate. The exasperated stewards

gave it one more try, but three more moves each reached another stalemate. The hookies had to pay up, and that's why you haven't seen betting on chess these past hundred years. Perhaps you'd like 10 work out the moves that led to these curious conclusions. (Position composed by W Jorgensen)

Answers: A) 1.b8(Q) gsfI(Q)2 Qd8 Qc1 3.Qxg5 Qxg5; B) 1.b8(R) grf1(R) 2.Rf8 Rsf2 3.Rsf3 Rsf3; Bh3 3.Bxd4 Bxg4.

C) 1.b8(B) grf1(B) 2.Ba7 D) 1.b8(N) gxf1(N) 2.Nxa6 Qx a6 3.Kd3 Rxe5.

#### **Perplexity**

Take ten cards bearing the numbers 1 10 10. You can quickly see that there are three different ways of picking cards that total 5: (2+3, 1+4, or 5 alone). You will similarly find there are ten distinct ways of picking cards that sum to 10, and eleveo ways of picking cards that sum to 11.

What other number, apart from 1, is equal to the number of ways you can form its sum? A copy of the Larousse Desk Reference Encyclopedia will be awarded to the sender of the first correct entry opened on 17 October. Entries to: Saturday Pastimes, the Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

Clin1 Eastwood (scowl antidote) Sondra Locke (noodle racks) divorce court (divot re-occur) Winner: Michael Crapper

#### **Bridge** Alan Hiron

E-W game; dealer South **♦**J863 Ø1098 ♦K 109 **♣**J 10 9 **442** ♥AJ63 O X O 0Q7 QJ65432 #A8753 **4642 ♦KQ1097** 

♥**7542** 

0A8

ΦKQ

was missed on this deal.

South opened One Spade. North raised to Two Spades have given you all the neces-West, he rather timidly passed, reasonable (and successful!) to have contested with Three Diamonds but perhaps he had accident or two through over-

zealous protection. Two Spades and when he and setting trick.

The idea of discarding a loser continued with the ♥Q East on a loser is familiar to most overtook and cashed the jack declarers. It is much more on which West parted with a difficult to visualise the club. East now tried the effect possibility of the same of the ace and another club but manocuvre for the defenders now there was no way for the and, perhaps unsurprisingly, it defenders to come to more than their five top winners.

ď-

to

Нy

lту.

The preamble above should and, when this came round to sary clues. After seeing his partner discard ◆2 on his ♥J. It would have been perfectly East should have led a fourth round of hearts for West to throw another club - the loser on loser theme as advertised. recently suffered a nasty Now West can win the first round of trumps with his ace and the defenders can come West led the ♥K against to a club ruff for their third





#### The big picture Mr Saturday Night Sun 10pm C4

There's more to Billy Crystal than the wise-cracking host of the Oscars. As films like When Harry Met Sally and Throw Momma from the Train have demonstrated, he is also a considerable comic actor. He shows this most tellingly in Mr Saturday Night, which he also directed. Opening "Kings of Comedy", a season of films celebrating comedy actors, this well-observed drama stars Crystal as a New York Jewish stand-up called Buddy Young Jr, who reflects on the family sacrifices he has made to get to the top.

### Television preview

RECOMMENDED VIEWING THIS WEEKEND by Gerard Gilbert



Fame Factor Sat 8pm, Sat 10pm C4 Crossing the Floor Sat 9.30pm BBC2 Equinox Sun 7pm C4 Clive Anderson All Talk Sun 10.15pm BBC1 The South Bank Show Sun 10.45pm ITV

the desire to become famous. It's simply a desire enough to have a laugh at it. to be loved, he says. Lynne Perrie, formerly Ivy Tilsley of Coronation Street, concurs. In fact, over footage of her making a special guest appearance at a bingo evening, she admits "you can actually have an orgasm" when up on stage. One hopes she means "actually" in the way that people who end up being quoted in Private Eye mean "literally" - ie, metaphorically. Anyway, this admission is slyly edited in with bingo callers telling her to "get on with it".

Tough love. We're watching "The Ghost of Ivy Tilsley" (Sat C4), part of a new Channel 4 season, Fame Factor, looking at the darker side of celebrity. Other programmes include a film about stalkers. "I'm Your Number One Fan", and one about the missing guitarist of the Manie Street Preachers, Richey Edwards - "The Vanishing of Richey Manic" (Sat C4). Now, like many of the people interviewed here (a mixture of disc jockeys and fans). I hope Edwards is alive and well. This film, however, verges on Spinal Tap at times, with its Guy Jenkin's latest political satire concerns the

(Tory) Government's majority of one (played with the requisite oleaginousness by Tom Wilkinson), who crosses over to Labour. thus precipitating a general election. It has to be said that Crossing the Floor (Sat BBC2) is a lot better than Jenkin's last offering, The Lord of Misrule. But its cast of sleazy Tories and sleek New Labour spin-doctors (the baddies here) is so over-familiar that one can only hope for a surprise Lib Dem victory to give us some fresh targets. There's a lovely spoof of a Tory Election Broadcast, by the way, which I suggest Central Office has a look at

In common with the trend to reduce human experience to chemicals in the brain, Equinox: Staying Alive (Sun C4) asks whether disaster survivors have just been damned lucky, or whether said chemicals have kicked in, thus greatly increasing their chances of saving themselves. Instead of freezing up (or, in the case of some of the victims of the Manchester airport disaster in 1985, trying to retrieve their give as good as they get.

D oy George has as good an explanation as any for solemnity and directorial conceits. I hope he is sane hand-luggage), they have developed tunnel vision and have literally trodden on other people to get tothe escape slides. I suppose there's only one way to discover one's own chemical make-up.
On the subject of survivors. The South Bank Show

(Sun ITV) features Norman Mailer on his new book. Portrait of Picasso as a Young Man. Mailer, posed Hemingway-like against a deep blue seascape, is on good form, despite a worrying tendency to forget words. The contentious gist of the book is that Picasso did all his best work before the age of 30. An interesting postscript is that, like Turner, he obsessively sketched vaginas at the end of his life.

And finally, Clive Anderson, newly signed by the BBC for Clive Anderson All Talk (Sun BBC1). My own well-worn view on Anderson is that he is usually so bent on cracking jokes off the back of his guests' answers that they might as well not be there half the time. At his best, though, his quick-fire repartee can jolt celebs out of their PR patter. His first guests - Eddie Murphy and Ben Elton - should be able to



#### The big race Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe Sun 1. i5pm BBC2

He may not be on the Christmas-card list of many bookmakers after last weekend's astonishing seven race win at Ascot, but jockey Frankie Detion (above) remains very much the people's champion. Whichever horse he rides, he is sure to be heavily backed by the Botish dayingpers in the Prix De l'Arc de Triemphe at Longchamp this weekend. He will have to beat the early tavourite, Helissio, and Shaamit, who is attempting to complete the double after winning the Derby earlier this year.

### Saturday television and radio

#### BBC1

7.00 Bay City (8060563).

7.25 News, Weather (9702259).
7.30 Children's BBC: The Morph Files. 7.40 Robinson Sucroe. 8.05 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest. 8.30 The New Adventures of Superman (R)

(2208921), \* 9.15 Live and Kicking. Andrea Boardman talks to Eddie Murphy, while Olympic gold-medal winning swimmer Michelle Smith answers viewers' questions; plus, music from Bitty McLean and Sleeper (S) (44191582).

12.12 Weather (7639230). 12.15 Grandstand: 12.20 Football Focus. 1.00 News. 1.05 Motorcycling: the penultimate round of the British Superbike Championship from Brands Hatch. 1.30 Mountain Biking: highlights of mountain bikings World Championships from Cairns, Australia. 1.50 Racing from Longchamp: 2.00 Prix de Royallieu. 3.10 Prix du Cadran. 3.45 Prix Dollar. Plus racing from Chepstow. 2.15 Memercles Benz Handisan Cheps. 3.50 Eng. Mercedes Benz Handicap Chase, 2.50 Free Handicap Hurdle, 3.25 Maryland Farmhouse Cheddar Novice Chase. 3.55 Football Half-Times, 4.00 Rugby Union: highlights of Italy v Wales from Rome. 4.40 Final Score (S) (95645389).

5.20 News, Weather (2776327). \* S.30 Regional News and Weather (629327). 5.35 Dad's Army. Walker arranges for Jones to get some

off-ration pigeons, but did they come from Trafalgar Square? (R) (620495). \* 6,05 Jim Davidson's Generation Game (S) (985211). \* 7.05 Due South (S) (628834). \*

7.50 The National Lottery Live. Boyzone perform their new single and get the balls rolling (S) (229921). 8.05 Casualty. Grief for two young kids travelling from Scotland in search of their mother (S) (623650).

8.55 News and Sport, Weather (Followed by National Lottery Update) (346174).

9.15 STEM Snowbound, (Christian Duguay 1993 US). A young soldier (Doogle Howser MD's Neil Patrick Harris) is determined to attend his grandmother's funeral in Idaho, despite a patch of inclement

weather. Based on real life is about the only thing

you can say about this. Kelli Williams, Susan Clark and Michael Gross co-star (580747). \* 10.45 They Think It's All Over. As shown on Thursday. The guests are rugby player Brian Moore and ex-Neighbours star-cum-Big Breakfast presenter, Mark Little (Followed by The Nabon's Favourite

Poems) (R) (S) (137124). \* 11.15 Top of the Pops (R) (S) (321150). \* 11.50 Friday the 13th Part VIII: Jason Takes Manhattan (Rob Hedden 1989 US). The seventh sequel in the series was in many ways the best, as Jason heads New York-wards on a cruise ship.

Imaginative slasher fare (S) (193619). \* 1.25 Weather (2147612). To 1.30am. REGIONS. Wales: 1.50pm Rugby Union: Italy v Wales. Scot: 5.35pm Auntie's TV Favourites

#### BBC 2

Open University: Immigration, Prejudice and Ethnicity (5460018). 9.10 Seeing Through Mathematics (2648389). 9.35 Tropical Forest: The Conundrum of Co-existence (4659018).

10.00 Chanakya, Historical epic (R) (S) (1696360).
10.35 Network East (S) (9334563).
11.20 Bollywood or Bust! (S) (3392360).
11.50 When the Day Comes. Canadian documentary about four women carers (5840940).

12.20 Film 96 in New York with Barry Norman (3143489).

12.50 TEM Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (Victor Fleming 1941 US), Widely considered inferior to the 1932 Fredric March version, the gloss is laid on a bit thick by Gone with the Wind director Fleming, without any added depth. With Spencer Tracy, Ingrid Bergman and Lana Turner (84588227).

and Lana turner (84586227).

2.45 Torm and Jerry (R) (1728747).

2.55 ITEM The Nutty Professor (Jerry Lewis 1963 U5).

Cleverly billed with Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, Lewis's finest comedy finds his shy, lovesick chemistry professor becoming singer Buddy Love (Dean Austin) effort districts a special parties. The graphs Martin) after drinking a special potion, The remake, with Eddie Murphy, hits our cinema screens this autumn (28529360).

4.40 The Oprah Winfrey Show (S) (9863582). \* 5.20 TOTP 2 (S) (9439124). 6.05 Rhodes, 3/8. Martin Shaw stars (S) (813196). 7.00 News and Sport, Weather (554969).

7.15 Correspondent Charles Wheeler meets the "condo commandos" - America's hugely influential elderly voters (S) (640056). \*

8.00 What the Papers Say. With Mark Lawson of the Guardian (S) (829105), 8.10 The Hollow State. Continuing his series, Simon Hoggart reflects on the new priorities required by business and government in the new global economy (S) (628105).

9.00 Have I Got News for You, Ken Livingstone and Greg Proops join the lads in yesterday's edition (R) 9.30 Screen Two: Crossing the Floor. See Preview,

above (S) (2381899). 10.45 The 1996 Country Music Awards. The stars of country music gather at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry House for the 30th annual Country Music Association Awards (S) (594940).

12.15 Sorority Girl (Roger Corman 1957 US). Lowbudget drive-in fodder, with Susan Cabot as the spoilt little rich girl giving her college chums a

1.15 Rock All Night (Roger Corman 1957 U5). Killers take refuge in a bar and terrorise the customers (8717032), To 2.25am.

REGIONS, Wales: 4,40pm Correspondent, 5,25 The Time of Your Life. 5.50 Rhodes. 6.45 News and Sport, 6.50 World Cup Football, 9.05 Have I Got News for You 9.35 Screen Two: Crossing the Floor. 10.50 1996 Country Music Awards 12.20 Film: Sorority Girl. 1.20 Film: Rock All Night.

#### ITV/London

6.00 GMTV. 6.00 News. 6.10 Mole in the Hole. 6.30 Professor Bubble. 7.10 Oisney's Wake Up in the Wild Room. 8.20 Gargoyles, 8.50 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (7776/85).

9.25 Wow. The live entertainment show for Saturdays with 5 imeon Courtle and Sophie Aldred, Gary

Glitter and Leslie Grantham guest (22790871). 11.00 The Noise. Andi Peters presents the live music magazine. This week's studio guests are Ant and Oec., Toni Braxton and the Spice Girls (S) (2698).

11.30 The Chart 5how (SJ (35940). 12.30 Love Bites. New series looking at romance relationships and love. In the first edition, footballing hardman Vinnie Jones is asked whether he believes in true love, and there's a report on what it would be like to get pregnant at the age of

News and Weather (48207389). \* Local News, Weather (48299360).
 Movies, Games and Videos (6383921).

1.45 Cartoon Time (57532766). 2.00 Rising Damp (Joe McGrath 1979 UK). 5itcom spin-off with Leonard Rossiter, Frances 0e La Tour and Don Warrington (675259). 3.50 Seaquest 2032 (S) (8230327). \*

4.45 News, Sports Results, Weather (7943853). \*
5.05 London Tonight, Sport (Followed by LWT Weather) (5954853). \*

S.20 New Baywatch, Mitch has to judge a bikini contest, the old dog (S) (4356143).

6.15 Gladiators (5) (827495). \* 7.15 Blind Date (S) (823579). \* 8.15 Family Fortunes (S) (143785). \*

8.45 News, Weather, Lottery Result (Followed by LWT Weather) (641786). \*

9.00 Die Hard 2 (Renny Harlin 1990 US). The sequel to John McTleman's action classic recognises the parodic value of Bruce Willis's New York cop stumbling into a terrorist spectacular for the second time - this time, they've seized Washington's Dulles Airport. Bonnie Bedefia again plays his wife – again one of the hostages. Dennis Franz co-stars (S) (26914308). \*

11.15 Magnum Force (Ted Post 1973 US). A Nazistyle elite of clean-cut cops are slaughlering San Francisco's labour racketeers, drug dealers and other scum. You'd have thought the hero of Oirty Harry would have approved. Instead, in this brutally effective entertainment (the script was from John Milius), Clint Eastwood's avenger hero decides to round them up. A pre-stardom David Soul supports (53309501), \*

1.30 Funny Business. David Baddiel is one of Jo Jo Smith's guests (S) (11964)

2.00 Tropical Heat (R) (S) (7950148). 2.50 The Chart Show (R) (S) (4816051).

3.40 El News Review (6002235). 4.30 Cool Vibes (S) (15616709).

4.35 God's Gift (R) (4256254). 5.30 News (552351. 7o 6.00am.

#### Channel 4

6.50 The Magic School 8us (R) (5) (6874563). 7.25 Really Wild Animals. A new wildlife series, narrated by Oudley Moore (S) (3901143).
7.45 First Edition (8852230).

8.00 Transworld Sport (30209). 9.00 The Morning Line. Today's nags (SI (91650). 10.00 Gazzetta Football Italia (97540). 11.00 Blitz! (S) (98476).

12.00 Rawhide (19768). 1.00 Sea Devils (Raoul Walsh 1953 UK). Lowbudget "programmer" set in the Napoleonic wars (and filmed around the Channel Islands) tells of a group of smugglers who discover French invasion plans (20485563).

Channel 4 Racing from Newmarket. Brough Scott introduces the four-race card: the 2.55 Sun Chariot Stakes, the 3.35 Tote Cambridgeshire Handicap, the 4.10 Jockey Club Cup. and the 4.45 Alington Maiden Fillies Stakes (S) (70643476).

5.05 Brookside Omnibus (R) (S) (3550105), \* Right to Reply (S) (308). \*

News Summary and Weather (990.747).
The People's Parliament. Same-sex partners should be allowed to many and enjoy the same 7.05 legal rights as hetrosexual couples. Discuss (260834).

8.00 Fame Factor: The Ghost of ky Tilsley. A new Channel 4 "zone", looking at the darker side of fame, begins with actress Lynne Perne, aka Comoation Street's lvy Tilsley, See Preview, above (\$) (3719).

Roseanne (R) (S) (9766), \* 9.00 I'm Your Number One Fan. Professor Paul Mullen. who has specialised in incidents of star stalking, explains how fandom can slip into obsession and,

in some cases, life-threatening behaviour (8747).

10.00 The Vanishing of Richey Manic. On 14 February last year, Richey Edwards, of the Manic Street Preachers, went missing, and he hasn't been heard of or from since. A stunt, a cry for help, or did Edwards throw himself from the Severn Bridge? A range of celebs and fans have their say. See Preview, above (90259). \*

10.30 ETEM A Star Is Born (Frank Pierson 1976 US). Barbra Streisand is a small-town singer discovered by Kris Kristofferson, a rock star past his prime. They many, but her star rises and his lalls. Effective, if sentimental, variation on the Ihricefilmed story (14497389). \* Reflected Glory. Film about "tribute bands".

as the Bootleg Beatles and The Bootles (S) (1712099). 1.20 Blast 'Em. Repeat True Stories film about the

world of the paparazzo photographer (R) (\$1 (1419070).

Blow Up (Michelangelo Antonioni 1966 UK). Seminal slice of swinging London with photographer Oavid Hemmings, whose larky fashion shoot in the park may or may not have captured a murder (51-4-493), To 4,50am.

#### **ITV/Regions**

ANGLIA
As London except: 12.30pm Champion of the his-As Contain empty: 123-04th Control (36:57):31 1,40 Mayes, Games and Valor): (1-9/1556-9): 2,10 Southmasters (7:6660/8): 2,255 Annote (8:87-76): 1,30 m (1-30m Horizontal Mayer): (235-760): 2,25 m Films The Man in the Wilderhams (235-780): 4,10 m Her-

CHANNEL 3 HORTH EAST/YORKSHIRE

As London except: 12,30pm Movies, Games, and
Vaces, (2005): 1.10 Transle in Paradon (810) (85)
2.05 Carteon Fine (1874):0181, 2.15 Films Carry
on Serge art (7962):11, 3.45 Annoth (3971):40, 5.10
Channel 3 April Stat Full Time (25642):11, Van. 5. Screene (7553211), 1.55am War and Remomen 1854381 3.50am Little & Louid (6898167), 4,45-5.30am Murder, She Wrote (9001540).

As London except: 12.30pm Premiere (79259) 1,10 Cartaen Time (74/23673), 1.25 Dinesturs (30387745), 1.55 Eustern Mirc (149/17471, 2.25)

As London except: 12.30pm West. Go Getter. 1355-476; Wales: Caldoma off Scat (90799691) 12.45 Wales: Rugby 2000 (957/19196) 12.55 West Carbook (9.936/24), 1.10 West No Nobrd Flames (4658872), Wales, God, Sex, Drugs and Sack of Rait (4658872). Z 10 Mones, Games and Videos (2010/056), 2,40 Carroon Time (1749); 315 2,50 Robotcop (8345389). 3,45 sea Guest 20,52 (8233414), 4,40 West, TV Sport Min Classics (8450105). Wales Let's Go (8450105). 1,30mm Classics (8450105). 1

As London except: 12,30pm Movies, Games and Videos (29259), 1,10 Mendian Motor-port

WESTCOUNTRY

205 Film: The Likely Lads (643650) 1.30am C.r. nal Knowledge (3797902) 2.25aam Film: The Mar in the Wilderness (235778) 4.10am Helter Stolter (9651438), 5.00-5.30am Soring (60254)

#### Radio

Radio 1

Radio 2

(97 6-99 8MHz FMD 7.00am kevin Greening 10.00 Dave Pearce 1.00 Jo Whiley 4.00 John Peel 7.00 Lovegroove Cance Party with Danny Rampling 9.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 The Radio 1 Reggae Oancehall Nite 2.00 Essential Mix: Judge Jules 4.00-6.00am Charlie Jordan

Saturday Show 1.00 Carrott's ledy Choice 1.30 The New Huddlines 2.00 Judi Spiers 4.00 Nick Barraclough 5.00 Bub-blegum king 6.00 Chris Rea in Concert 7.00 Kiss Me hate 10.00 The Birmingham Repertory heatre 12.05 Sue McGarry 4.00-6.00am Mo Dutta Radio 3 (902-32-44H: Flat 7.00am Record Review. 9.00 Building a Library.

6.00am Mo Outta 8.05 Brian

Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright's

10.15 Record Release. 12.00 Private Passions, Michael Berkeley is joined by poet Craig Raine, whose musical passions include Mahler, Tchaikovsky, Musorgsky and Stravinsky, Carmen Jones, Or Hook and The Medicine Show 1.00 News: Simon Rattle - Home and Away. Sibelius: Night-Ride

and Sunrise. Janacek: Taras Bulba. Pelei Maxwell Oavies: Symphony No 1. 3.00 The Department Score. 3.30 Youth Orchestras of the

5.00 Jazz Record Requests, With Geoffrey Smith. S.4S Music Matters, Ivan Hewett reads a new book on the value of popular music, and offers an aporaisal of Bruckner 100 years after his death.

6.30 Debut. A recital by the voune Russian planist konstanin Sherbakov, winner of the first Rachmaninov Competition

7.10 The Doctor of Myddfai, Peter Maxwell Davies's new opera, broadcast live from the w Theatre, Cardiff. 9.35 Building for the Arts. Light in Dark Places. John Orummond talks to leading architects about the recent 10.05 Phil Woods and Clark Ter-

ry. Geoffrey 5mith Introduces

more Hall, London,

around this weekend to mark the centenary of the disastrous libel suit that led to his downfall, including a pair of dramas starring Simon Russell (2.30pm and 10.15pm R4).

 1.00 Through the Night. With Donald Macleod. 6.00-7.00am Sequence

192.4-94.6MHL FAL 198HHz (141) 6.10 Farming Today.
6.50 Prayer for the Day.
6.55 Weather.
7.00 Today.

9.05 Sport on 4. 9.30 Breakaway. 10.00 News; Loose Ends. Tears

parties make a point of tall tough on crime, many people doubt whether the politicians will deliver. Peter Hitchens ex amines the limits of the new dent. Reports from BBC corre

12.25 News Quiz. 1.00 News. 1.10 Any Questions? 1.SS Shipping Forecast. 2.00 News; Any Answers?

Christopher Fitz-Simon. With the Marguis of Queensberry hounding him for corrupting his son, Wilde can either remain silent or risk having his courts. (1/2). See Choice.

private life dragged through the Peter Evans examines the

#### Choice

Radio 4 6.00am News Briefing.

and laughter as Ned Sherrin talks to John Motson, Michael

Punishment. While both major

.00 News; That's History. 4.30 Science Now. Are present-day mental problems related to the evoltulon of humankind? new area of evolutionary psychilatry, which is challenging

Lots of Oscar Wilde (left) Beale: The Trials of Oscar Wilde

conventional explanations and treatment of mental disorders. 5.00 File on 4. Jonathan Rugman reports on major issues at home and abroad.

at the contents of an average 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. S Week Ending. Topical come-dy sketch show with Sally Grace, Peter Serafinowicz.

Meera Syal and Alistair Mc-6.50 Ad Lib. Robert Robinson talks with a group of portrait painters and discovers that the artist's studio is a place where the great and good, the rich

ries. (1/8).
7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. Tim Maylon visits Luton and the West Country to report on the state of the British rave scene in the wake of the Criminal Justice Bill. is it a radical or simply a vacuous pursuit of

ioved-up teenagers?
7.50 On These Oays.
8.50 Saturday Night Theatre:
Victoria Station. Historical dralor inlectious protest and protesting infection. (2/5). 9.35 Classics with Kay. 9.50 Ten to Ten. 9.59 Weather. 10.00 News.

the BBC Poetry Festival in 12.00 News. 12.30 Late Story: Love and Death in Languedoc. Ping! Written and read by the novel ist Christopher Hope Ping! In oses a dad and gains a wile.

Radio 5

(693, 909kt); WWW 6.00am Oirty Tackle 6.30 Brian Parrot 12.05 Baker and Kelly Up-front 1.05 Sport on Five 6.55 World Cup Football 9.05 Oallyn
UK 10.05 Brief Lives 10.35
Word Up! 11.00 Night Extra
12.05 Night Talk with Pattie
Coldwell 2.05 Up All Night 5.00-6.00am Morning Reports

Classic FM 1100.0-101.9NHb FMG

6.00am Sarah Lucas. 9.00 Classic Countdown, 12.00 Gardening orum. 1.00 Jane Markham. 3.00 Nick Bailey, 7.00 Russian Revelation. 8.00 Evening Concert Elgar: Wand of Youth Suite No 2. Dukas: The Sorcerer's Apprentice Prokofiev: Cinderella Suite No 1. Ravel: L'Enfant et Les Sortileges. 10.00 Classic Quiz. 12.00 Andre Leon, 4.00 Travel Guide, 5.00-

Richard Skinner 2.00 Robin Banks (including Cadbury's Crunchie Album Chart) 6.00 Lynn Parsons 10.00 Jeremy Clark 2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce

(1980th LM) 1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Letter from America 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Music Review 4.00 World News 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 Fourth Estate 4.45 Write On 4.55 Pop Short 5.00 Newsdesk 5.30-

6.00am Short Story

7.00am Undun (51/06563), 12.00 WWF (59414), 1.00 Hit Mix (35834),

2.00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (74691). 3.00 Hawkeye (65501). 4.00 WWF (51308). 5.00 Pacific Blue (3360). 6.00 America's Dumbest Criminals (7679). 6,30 Springhill (1259). 7,00 Hercules: The Legandary Journeys (96969). 8,00 Unsolved Mysteries (72389). 9.00 Cops (40292). 9.30 Cop Files (50143). 10.00 Stand and Deliver (10037), 10.30 Revelations (29785), 11.00 Movie Show (52037). 11.30 Forever Knight (82105). 12.30 Dream On (81135). 1.00 Comedy Rules (87544), 1.30 The Edge (94322).

2.00-7.00am I fit Mix (66525). 7.00pm Earth 2 (4449143). 8.00 Jag (4425563). 9.00 Kindred: The Emtraced (4-145327). 10.00 Tales from the Crypt (5430698), 10,30 Tales from the Crypt (9374872). 12,00 Film: Pretty Poison (2275506). 2,00-6,00cm Hit Mis, Long Play (6263902).

SKY MOVIES 6.00am The Double Man (1967)

MOVE CHANNEL

(58124), 8.00 A Flea in Her Ear (1968) (20501), 10.00 Destination Moon (1950) (41-495), 12.00 Windwalker (1980) (10124), 2.00 Maninatian Murder Mystery (1993) (79292). 4.00 Homeward Bound (1980) (8292). 6.00 Steenless in Seattle (1993) (99056). 8.00 Top Dog (1994) (94501). 10.00 Philadelphia (1993) (60009018). 12,05 Indecent Behavior II (1994) (752780). 1.40 Hostile Advances: The Kerry Elison Story (1996) (2871902). 3.10-6.00am Where the Day Takes You 119921/359329831

6.00am Hollywood Cavalcade (1939) 156766). 8.00 Tekwar (1993) (28143). 10.00 Romantic Undertaking (1995) 149037). 12.00 With Honors (1994) (18766). 2.00 A Night in Casablanca (1946) (77834). 4.00 Andre (1994) (97698). 8.00 Black Beauty (1994) (97698). 8.00 With Honors (1994) (92143). 10.00 Ext to Eden (1994) (207259), 11,55 Last Gaso (1994) 1658414). 1,30 The Joy Luck Club (1993) (39878273), 3.50-6.00an Rosie Drom Night Nurse (1978)

SKY MOVIES GOLD 4.00pm Bachelor Flat (1962) (65475327), 5.35 Young Philadelphians (1959) (30865940), 8.00 Spyrnak er: The Secret Life of lan Fleming ( 1990) (76143). 10.00 Coming to America

(1988) (48872). 12.00 Best Defence

(1966) (813709), 3.35-5.25am Sum-mer Stock (1950) (662439).

(1984) (384051), 1.35 Modesty Blaise

7,00am Give Us A Clue (7263018), 7,30 Going for Gold (9867230), 7,55 Sullivans (78-44287), 10,00 Neighbours (2107655). 12.00 EastEnders (95572501), 2.55 Minder (69835679), 4.00 Robar's Nest (5995747), 4.30 Sorry! (4838259), 5.05 Cartoons (41126550), 5.15 A Team (2687-195), 6.15 Bullseye (4875-189), 6.45 Some Mothers Do (4875-1637, 5-AS SOME MODINES Do \*Ave Em (5-64495), 7-25 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? (5560) 053, 8.05 Shoestring (97808259), 9.10 Fibre Raw Deal (1996) (85842105), 11.10 Miami Vice (3789330). 12.10 Callan (5019525). 10 The Album Show (8952322).

Page (94698). 12.00 Sports Saturday 161872). 2.00 Rugby Union – Live (36573308). 4.15 Results (1903105). 5.30 (ce Hockey (639785). 8.00 Darts (672650). 11.00 Rugby (45698). 1.00-3.30am (ce Hockey (101186).

SAY SPORTS 2

7.00am Soccer AM (5375037). 11.00 Golf (9832327). 12.00 Velo-Cycling (7788785). 12.30 World Sport 13968650). 1.00 Golf (3963105). 2.00 Darts (7933563). 5.00 Finish Line (2177679), 5,30 Football; Moldova v Italy (2804650), 7,00 Spanish Football 7/99921). 9.30 Football (4878501). 11.00 Memories (8821105). 11.30-1.00am FA Cup Finals (3042766). SKY SPORTS 3

12.00noon Skiff Salling (10633834), 12.30 Pinish Line (71493853). 1.00 Motor Sport (12160124), 5.00 Asian Golf (92330853), 6.00 Horse of the Year (70455389), 9.30 Golf USA (82217501), 11.30-12.00midnight Engh Line (7735380)

6.00am Revelations 6.30 Looking for Love 7.00 Spanish Archer 7.30 Mind 9.00 Fate and Fortune 9.30 Fashion Mind and Body 3.00 Chequared Flag

te: Skeller (965) 4781 5.00-5.30am World at Saling (60254)

Mayas, Guines and Videos (27965940), 2.52 An-wort, 8337360), 3.50, RoboCop. (8230377 5.10 Central Match (2553717), 4.35, Johnstot (7201360), 5.20-5.30am Asian Eve (5681322).

Curtal Mouvledge (3197902), 2,25am Films The Man in the Wilderness (239728), 4,10am Heller Swetter (9651438), 5,00-5,30am Spilling (60254).

Videos (29259), 1,10 Merdian Motorport (5678728); 1,40 A406 (14915563), 2,10 World of Salving (20102056); 2,40 Worlder Curteen (1749270), 2,50 Arrwell (6345389), 3,45 seatulest 2032 (392124), 1,30am Camal Krowledge (3197502), 2,25am Film; The Mon in the Wilderness (235728), 4,10am Hetter Skelter (9651438); 5,00-5,30am Freescreen (60254)

As London except: 12,30pm Movies, Garries and Videos (39,259) 1.10 Champions of the Future (36787281: 1.40 A World of Wender (1,4905940)

As C4 except: 10,00am Rayhde (975-10) 12,00 The Averges (19766), 2.45 Racing (26973/14), 6.30 Sev

8.58 Weather. 9.00 News.

Foot et al. 11.00 News; Aganda. Crime and

2.30 Saturday Playhouse: The Trials of Oscar Wilde. By

spondents around the world. 12.00 Money Box.

5.40 The Wardrobe, A mix of anecdote, archive sound and music provides a sidelong look

heads can relax and tell sto-

ma by Steve Chambers set in Victoria Station, Bridgiord, 11 January 1895 is a day notable

10.15 The Thals of Oscar Wilde.

By Christopher Fitz-Simon. The trial commences and Wilde starts out confidently m front of

a packed court room. (2/2).

11.15 Auntie's Secret Box. The

See Choice, above

### **Satellite**

Mike Hayley, Alan Francis, Dan Strauss and Suzy Blake. 11.30 Stanza. Musicians Kathryn Tickell and Rick Taylor, and poets Brendan Cleary and Katrina Porteous, in performance at

12.48 Shipping Forecast, 1.00-6.00am As World Service.

Hayes at Breakfast 9.05 Weekend with Kershaw and Whittaker 11.05 Top Gear 11.35 Sick as a

Virgin Radio 11215, 1197-1260Ng MW 105 8Mg FM 6.00am John Hipper 8.00 Russ & Jono's Greatest Hits 10.00

World Service

2.10-7.00am Shopping (2791 3235) SICK SPORTS 1 7.00am World Sports (99143), 7.30 Cavalcade (30018), 8.30 Racing News (83018), 9.00 NHL (80582), 10.00 Rugby (74834), 11.00 Hold the Back

Finish Line (77353389).

and Body 8.00 Why File 8.30 Video Box 10.00 Revelations 10.30 Looking for Love 11.00 Mind and Body 11.30 Span-Why Files 1.00 Looking for Love 1.30 Fate and Fortune 2.00 Fashion 2.30 3.30 Pin Money 4.00 Eric's Morster Sport 5.30 Looking for Love 6.00 Fash-ion 6.30 Enc's Monster Sport 7.00 Span-ish Archer 7.30 Revelopings 8.00 Fate and Fortune 8.30 Missing 9.03 Why Files 9.30 Looking for Love 10.03 End's Monster Sport 10.30 Stand Up 11.03 Fate and Fortune 11.30 The Sex Show 12.00-6.00am Night-Time Programmes

#### Mass VMt0 (2051 700 News (5/8037) 7.15 New Hallon (6/960 / 8) 20 Hel State (1/94853), 8.50 Gbs (1/94853), "IF YOU **GIVE TO CHARITY** YOU'LL WANT THIS."

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### There is a future for a new model monarchy

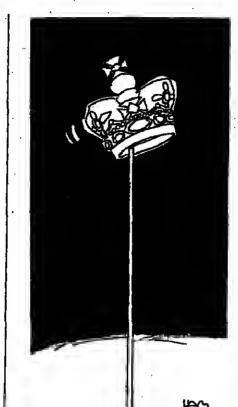
Tive la république! How natural a conclusion that would be after a week of V stargazer Vasso on Fergie and (a very different book, to be sure) Ben Pimlott in these pages on the Queen. "Dregs of a dull race" - Shelley's judgement on the Hanoverians - needs to be updated for the Battenberg-Windsors and their circle. Even after due weight is given to media preoccupations, and fact peeled apart from the "as-told-to" and "a courtier said", how little there is in all these tales to inspire love and esteem for our monarchical institutions. How easy it might be to let disillusion consume the institution of the British monarchy.

Even Cromwell, though, knew that one way or another he would have to re-create a working relationship between executive authority, titular headship of the state, and the legislature. Inside that constitutional triangle lies the continuing justification for the monarchy. The House of Windsor may be in questionable condition, but that in itself is insufficient cause for conducting major surgery. Why? Because the other components in the constitutional matrix require more urgent and more substantial reform than the monarchy. Indeed, there is a strong case for feeling that, while the storm of reform quite properly blows about the Lords, the Commons, Scotland, Ireland, electoral reform and our relationship with Europe, the monarchy might even serve as a sort of sheetanchor.

During the next few years there ought to be sharp discussion about how to reform the peerage by, at the least, injecting a representative element into the upper house. This week (Neil Hamilton, election funding, representativeness) has underlined once again the need for profound changes in the method of election to, and the daily conduct of, the House of Commons.

The creation of even a mildly authoritative Scottish parliament will have knock-on effects throughout our constitution, as will any ultimate settlement in Northern Ireland. The position of this country inside the European Union will alter for certain during the next three years; whatever decision is made about our joining the single currency, its mere creation by France, Germany and the German mark neighbours will provoke inevitable revision in the political and administrative relations between Brussels, London, Luxembourg and Strasbourg.

That welter of constitutional change is either necessary, or unstoppable, or both. Why then add pointlessly to it by attempting to invent an alternative for the monarchy? If George IV showed bow a king could side with the reactionaries, George V showed how in a moment of constitutional crisis the monarch can smooth reform. The practical



ful as a bond for the state's officials, for the legal system, and for the ownership of various kinds of government assets.

It is a commonplace, as true now as it was when Lord Protector Cromwell was offered a throne, that nations need figureheads. To some people the prospect of a British president seems beguiling. But it is hard to see how our progress towards a more modern society would be greatly aided by the creation of a brand new, unknown centre of potentially authoritarian power, in place of a monarchy whose power is partly irrelevant, partly imaginary, and partly rather pragmatically convenient. Stripped down from its imperial pretensions, the monarchy provides a historically wild and believe the monarchy provides a historically wild and believe the monarchy provides a historically valid symbol of unity.

Change, however, should be brought about more in gradualistic Pabian fashion than in guillotining revolutionary fashion. Ben Pimlott's narrative leaves the impression that Elizabeth II is not so dyed-in-the-wool that she could not contemplate substantial patching and alteration to the royal purple. Her cldest son has shown himself open to new thinking about the royal future. That phrase, "a king for all faiths", for which be was so much derided, is spot-on. The Anglican Church, a wily survivor if ever there was one, does not need a monarch at its head; if the king or queen of next century Britain were

fiction of "the Crown" is and remains use- | a Catholic or even a non-believer, so much the better. The monarchy would serve the nation better after disestablishment.

But the nation need not pay so dearly for the privilege. Any chancellor worth his or her salt should demand substantial further reductions in the cost of the Civil List, together with a thorough review of the Queen's personal wealth and of the Duchy of Cornwall. There is even a case for reviving the old medieval slogan that the king should live "of his own" - the proceeds of the royal family's property paying for its institutional existence. That ought, at least, to encourage the Queen or her heir into long overduc pruning of the grace and favour lists and the further appendages of the immediate royal family.

The British monarchy is an institution which history proves to be capable of dra-matic internal change. The House of Windsor has not been an especially imaginative dynasty. But there are signs that, for its own sake as much as that of the throne it occupies, fresh thought is taking place about downsizing and disappearing off the front pages of the tabloid newspapers. It would be too much to expect Prince Charles to write a Demos pamphlet on the prospects for modest monarchy. But he could and should stimulate his cleverer friends to start thinking aloud about the dimensions of a new model

#### ■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

#### Whoever wins control, Jerusalem belongs to the world

Sir: Professor Hughes (letter, 2 October) is right to note the 1978 Unesco resolution deploring the Israeli excavations in Jerusalem and the American and British withdrawal from Unesco.

It is a little publicised fact that in 1980/I the Old City of Jerusalem was nominated, and listed, as a World Heritage Site; such sites, under the terms of the World Heritage Convention, drawn up under the auspices of the same UN agency, are defined as places to be protected for their "universal importance to mankind". The nomination was made by Jordan and accepted by Unesco because the city is of vital cultural importance to the Moslem. Christian and Jewish religions.

Israel has never accepted the listing, arguing that it was politically motivated, and that because Israel is the *de facto* authority in the city. Jordan has no legitimate right to make it.

In 1982 the Old City was included on the list of World Heritage Sites in Danger. One of the criteria for inclusion on the list is (to paraphrase) "the serious loss of cultural or historical integrity". The nomination, again by Jordan, came about after the shooting of a number of Palestinians within the Haram al-Sherif (Temple Mount) and in response to increasing frustration in the Arab world, and international concern at the scale of urban development within and without its walls. Again Israel did not recognise the listing.

The recent opening of the tunnet finally draws attention to many similar actions since 1967. Many of these are illegal under the terms of

the Hague Convention.

Eventually, the negotiations on the final status of Jerusalem will decide who will be responsible for its care, and it is time that the parties involved woke up to the fact that whoever is granted that responsibility will be guardians, not owners, of Jerusalem for the millions of Moslems, Christians and Jews around the world.

**Women right to** 

printed in response (2 October)

The higgest factor must now be

burglary. Most people have seen

about. Their fear of crime is no

longer hased on news stories. It is

Young women, as well as old,

hurglary more than men. There is

no comfort from the police, who

small chance of the hurglar heing

measures will stop burglars getting

makes it more likely, not less, that

in if they really want to and that

their having been burgled once

they will be burgled again. For

elderly women living alone the

greatest fear is that, next time,

they might be at home when the

Most of the elderly women l

work with face these realities with

can only tell them that there is

caught, that no preventive

the homes of people they care

based on their real personal

seem to fear the intrusion of

experience.

burgiars call.

either their own homes burgled or

miss the point about elderly

fear burglary

women's fear of crime.



Old Jerusalem yesterday: a Muslim man leaving Friday prayers at the al-Agsa Mosque

Sir: Professor Hughes refers to a Unesco resolution in support of his claim that Israeli archaeological excavations in Jerusalem are an attempt to "reinforce sovereignty" in the city. He fails to point out that following the resolution, a Unescoappointed expert committee headed by Professor Raymond Lemaire, Unesco's representative to Jerusalem, reported in 1983 that allegations linking the excavations with damage to Muslim structures were "groundless". SHAYLA WALMSLEY

Sir: I have read the courageous letter of the Hon Miranda Rothschild with great interest (30 September). I founded the Muslim and Jewish Society in 1964. This was in response to my dream of bringing together these great cultures.

London EC1

The cruelly shattered peace has

Sir: Your article on the future

administration of the South Downs

there is "widespread opposition" to declaring the area a national park.

that support for a national park or

'widespread" - the National Trust,

English Nature, Sports Council,

Society and Council for the

and tourist developments:

name a few.

Protection of Rural England, to

The South Downs is one of

Rural Development Company

Rambiers Association, Open Spaces

England's most beautiful landscapes.

Yet it faces serious pressures - from

towns, road building and commercial

In CPRE's view the Countryside

Commission's proposals to continue

the expansion of the Sussex coastal

Recent consultation has revealed

statutory body of similar status is also

("Salvation in prospect for Kipling's dream Downs", 19 September) states

South Downs need special care

consumed all thinking people with grief; harmony was so near but as events proved it was all in vain.

We need to convince the people of Israel to seek re-elections which will bring a national and God-fearing administration to power. As a hrother Ismail I seek a

solution which will reunite us with our brother Isaacs, this securing peace in this critical area. The whole universe is threatened by the partisan and ruthless behaviour of the present Israeli leadership.

We must stand together with all nations, rebuild the Holy Places that have been desecrated and establish goodwill again among nations of the Middle East and the Muslims at

Prince Mohsin ALI KHAN London N2

with current administrative arrangements are not sufficiently

secure. While the existing

Conservation Board has without

Beauty, it needs both statutory

question provided good value for money in planning and management

of the Area of Outstanding Natural

authority and the resources to plan.

A special statutory body, equivalent in status to a National

Park, tailored to the local area, is

Commission should give greater

consideration to this option if the

Council for the Protection of Rural

South Downs is to continue to inspire

poets of this and future generations.

needed. The Countryside.

FIONA REYNOLDS .

Director

London SWI

manage and protect the whole of the

Sir: I could see oo evidence in the European Union statement on the

latest crisis of an implicit warning that "Israel's economic ties with Europe could be jeopardised by further breaches of the peace deal, particularly over Jerusalem" ("EU puts squeeze on Netanyahu", 2

Europe might yearn for the good old days when Israel was a fledgling state, vulnerable to economic threat but nowadays Europe's trade with Israel is booming, and very much in Europe's favour. Israel's current annual trade deficit with the EU is \$8.5bn. While the recent EU-Israel trade-association agreement may benefit Israel, it will give European companies access to Israet's hugely innovative science and hi-tech secto Many people believe that Europe stands to gain far more from the association than does Israel. HELEN DAVIS

#### Offshore havens of

Britain-Israel Public Affairs Centre

London EC1

Sir: Whilst I accept Senator Horsfall's cootention that the rules governing banking confidentiality are little different in Jersey from those applicable in the UK (Letters, 16 September), banking secrecy is not the principal source of the difficulties

A much bigger problem is the atmosphere of corporate secrecy that pervades most offshore centres It is almost impossible to obtain either reliable accounts from companies registered in offshore centres or any information about who controls such companies. In all responsible jurisdictions around the world, it is obligatory for companies to make information of this kind NIGEL WILKINS

### company secrecy

presented by offshore centres.

Sir. The death of Doris Archer in a Archer's first wife and hence London SW7

#### Cash for questions: cut out the middle man and cut out the sleaze

Sir: Imagine if government departments offered, on a commercial basis, facilities equivalent to written parliamentary questions, direct to professional lobbyists.

Imagine also if they could recover costs from lobbyists where it emerged that they had placed questions through MPs.

We would then have an end to

cash-for-questions scandals, while harming no legitimate interests. The public purse would profit and some MPs might have more time for their real constituents. PHILIPEWAN Middlesbrough,

Cleveland Sir: The recent Green/Hamilton

House of Commons is not a legislative assembly that most British people can be proud of. I would be keen to hear the Prime Minister "understand less and condemn more" the behaviour of Members of Parliament who bring it into such disrepute. So far the silence has been JOHN CARTER

affair has confirmed my fears that the Bristol id be addressed to Letters to the Editor. The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (Fax: 9171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.nk) and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: \$171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.nk) and include a daytime telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

### LETTER from THE EDITOR 'Victims' rush to

Sir: In "Tarred with the brush of blame" (28 September) we read of British smokers jumping on the litigation handwagon set in motion across the Atlantic. As a doctor I see daily the havoc

blame someone

wreaked by cigarettes, and I have little sympathy with tobacco companies, I am, however, sick of the victim culture into which we seem to be degenerating. It seems people are not prepared to accept any responsibility for their own lives. Freedoms they want; rights they demand - but

want; rights they demand - but responsibility is rejected. Were these poor people forced to smoke?
Where will it end? If my picnic gets rained off should I sue the Met Office? If I slip on an icy pavement should I sue the town council? If I have a traffic accident should I sue the manufacturer remembered that we are accountable for our own actions, before we automatically look for someone else to hlame when things go wrong? HUGH J THOMSON Consultant Surgeon Birmingham

#### Giving trouble

Sir: Giving to charity must be a rare bargain, judging by the accounts of the bountiful Messrs Gentles and Tye (Letters, 27 September, 1 October). At one time, you just got a warm inner glow for your money. Now, apparently, you're entitled to lecture the beneficiaries of your largesse should they plead, Oliver-like, for more. As a bonus, you can write to the press and tell the entire nation of the churlishness with which your alms have been received. Truly, it is better to give .... IVAN SHAKESPEARE London N7

#### We're no ladies

Sir: To answer Marie Paterson's question (letters, 1 October), the reason women today dislike being called ladies is that we want equality with men. "Lady" is acceptable if the equivalent term for a male in the same context would be "gentleman". To use "lady" out of a sense of respect for a female which would oot apply for a male is patronising and insulting. KATE WELCH Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire

Sir: While we're at it let us not forget those council advertisements seeking 'dinner ladies" and "women teachers" ROBERT VINCENT Andover, Hampshire

#### Ambridge tragedy

barn fire ("There's just enough muck in Ambridge", 1 October)? I rather think not. Any Archers fan will tell you that it was Grace Archer (Phil daughter-in-law of Doris) who died in a barn fire in 1955, famously on the night that commercial television started broadcasting in this country. PETER ANKERS London EC?

#### Budapest brains

Sir, In the obituary of Professor Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson (1 October) it is stated that Todmorden Secondary School is probably the only school to have educated two Nobel prizewinners. There is at least one other. Two pupils of the Lutheran Gymnasium (grammar school) in Budapest received a Nobel prize: Eugene Wigner (physics, 1963) and John Harsanyi (economics, 1994). ANDREW PETO Bickley, Kent

ou have to speak in inanities or the media will try to among the same people that parties which seem divided can't win elections. There's no inanities or the media will try to suggest you are criticising. This is terrifying for politics ... Running the country is a bit more complicated than that. We oeed discussion about some of the challenges facing us ... I am an old-fashioned politician who believes in reading books, who believes that intelligent discussion creates new ideas and that politics is not just something a few leaders do to run the country." Thus Clare Short on the

BBC's Conference Live programme from Blackpool.
Stumbling sore-foot among Labour delegates, and dazed with gossip and lager at the Imperial Hotel, I found this year's conference obsessed with journalism and reportage. It seemed unsettlingly post-modern - the medium arguing about the media and the message sliced into soundbite nuggets. But because the argument directly concerns how The Independent acts, as well as

other papers. I thought it right to mention it this morning. There were two strands to it -the discussion about whether politics has become dominated by spin doctors, and the argument about what papers report - "splits" based oo unnamed sources, rather than the raw meat of policy. The two are clearly related but the spin doctor stuff can be disposed of more quickly. Political jour-nalists who let themselves be bullied by spin doctors are rare and ought to fied another trade. Hacks who moan about them are, to adopt the language of the Chancellor, pathetic.

The second problem is more serious. We don't reproduce Labour policy documeots, or anyone else's, because they are extremely boring. We do report significant changes of policy. But yes, all papers bang on about splits and use unattributable sources. Where do we get them from? Most politi-cians I know will teak; and most are furious when they, in turn, are teaked against. But it isn't merely laziness or an irrational distaste for on-therecord quotes, as (say) Tony Benn thinks. Politics now happens inside parties as much as between them; few serious politicians would dispute that.

But there is a strong belief

way out.

This leads inexorably to the conclusion that real political argument - such as Labour's attitude to the single European currency - must be worked out behind the scenes.

The Tories used to do this all the time, but are getting worse at it. This week, by contrast, there was almost no public argument at Blackpool - not simply because people had been builted but because they are so desperate to win that discussion as dangerous.

Most politicians believe that real argument must be worked out behind the scenes. Journalism then falls back on unattributable quotes

If that's what the politicians do, then journalism has little recourse but to use unattributed quotes. Is this healthy? No. Does it lead to vigorous, engaging politics? No, it produces cynicism. Who loses from cynicism? All of us, but the politicians most directly. I don't have any easy answers. Come to think of it, I'm a bit short on difficult answers too. Perhaps we should just ban the word split and stop pretending to be shocked when politicians from the same party disagree. What

Other than that, drifting idly round the Blackpool conference for a day without needing to file a story has been one of the nicest perks of editorship thus far. But I am not swollen with habris, having heard yesterday how Rupert Murdoch lets his editors know that their oumber is coming up. "Waaall," says the Prince of Darkness after some disagreement. "You're the editor." Apparently the phrase should be translated as ... "but not for much longer.

Andrew Marr

to

ky.

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#### QUOTE UNQUOTE

There can be only one response to the spin doctor who tries to influence the content of a programme by threatening its editor. It should be succinct and consist of two words - John Humphrys. presenter of the BBC's 'Today' programme and 'On the Record'

plead guilty to trying in the past to put a good spin on everything Labour does and I will continue to do so - Peter Mandelson, Labour MP and guru

If people think my brain does not work, only my mouth, then they make a mistake - John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader

People have got to trust politicians. What I say is what I will do Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor

Tony Blair is a problem. Anyone on our side who doesn't think he is, is a fool - Lord Archer, Tory peer and best-selling author We doubt whether the Labour Party will be able to tolerate the Blair leadership for very much longer - Ken Coates, Labour MEP Dealing with Margaret Thatcher was like taking alternate hot and cold baths - Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany

I try to make the here and now as heavenly as possible in case there isn't one to ascend into when we're done. It's a kind of insurance - Michael Caine, actor

some resilience, but few are wholly unscarred by the experience. Some part of their life l'icar

Sir: Both Polly Toynhee ("Crime is up! Hit the moral panic huttoo", 25 September) and the letters you

is really spailed. The Rev MATTHEW BAYNHAM St Luke's Church Cradley Heath, West Midlands

In the final extract from his new biography, **Ben Pimlott** traces the relationship between the media and the Queen from postwar deference to today's free-forall. It was the Royal Family who first invited in the cameras



# Royal Knockout – own goal

y the end of 1945 it was clear that the dinary negative power, exercised in the person of the Queen's reputation enhanced, and much of the damage done by the Abdicatioo repaired. Yet if the Monarch was unquestioned and uncriticised at the Coronation in 1953, public deference was buttressed in ways that could not he sustained indefinitely. In particular, dis-appearance of Empire would inevitably weaken its hold on the popular imagination.

For the time being, the media regarded anything that was potentially embarrassing to the Royal Pamily as untouchable. The war had developed habits of self-censorship, which newspaper owners eager for Establishment respectability encouraged. A Fleet Strect consensus believed that "disloyal" stories were dynamite: any short-term gain in cira longer-term loss of reputation. The message from the public appeared clear. People wanted warm, comfortable and reassuring coverage of the Royal Family, and would not buy newspa-

pers that offered anything else. It was a climate that gave Buckingham Palace an extraor-

Royal Family had had a good war. It emerged with its expression of the Queen's press secretary, Commander Richard Colville, an unbending expraval officer with no knowledge of the press, which he treated with a combination of distrust and lordly contempt. He felt little need to supply the press with information or facil-ities that did not directly support the impression Buckingham Palace wished to convey. Even the BBC, ultra-sycophantic in all its coverage, was treated by the Palace in the

run-up to the Coronation with disdain. Rules were tight, and transgressors sharply rehuked. In May 1952, BE Nicolls, Director of Home Broadcastiog, wrote tentatively asking for permission to film the arrival of the Queen at Balmoral for Television News. The reply was a firm refusal. "Since Her Majesty and her family are going to Balmoral privately for a short holiday," wrote Commander Colville, "I do not think it at all appropriate." Journalists called him "the Ahominable No Man".

But hy the time of Commander Colville's retirement in 1968, attitudes were changing. His replacement, William Heseltine, believed that there

to the public. Television was the key. The old Commander had regarded it as the work of the devil. His successor - with some eocouragement from the Queen's consort - began to engineer a change of view. The result was Royal Family, a film for BBC television which pro-vided a behind-the-scenes por-trayal of what Commander Colville had dedicated his career to keeping hiddeo: the Queen's uff-duty family life, including a scene of the Sovereign harhecuing.

"The film showed that the

Royal Family was made up of ordinary people like the rest of us," says a close friend of the Royal Family, who had doubted the wisdom of the enterprise. "But when you discover they are ordinary people you have different expectations of them."

And once the Royal Family got into the husiness of revealsecrets, could it pick and choose? In later years, many looked hack and said the film "started the rot". Yet though given exceptional licence, the film still presented the monarchy as it wished to be seen.

The Palace expected the press to feel grateful. This was naïve. Appetites were whetted.

was now a need to sell royalty that was all, Cynics detected intimate royal phutographs, fection, was to challenge fate, another motive behind Buckingham Palace's sudden interest in raising the Monarchy's public profile; money. The Royal Family film happened in a year in which royal finances became an issue for the first

> By the end of the Sixties, Elizabeth had already reigned lunger than her father, prices had risen at an accelerating pace and wage and salary bills had grown disproportionately. But if the Queen's ability to meet official expenditure out of Civil List funds - fixed at the beginning of her reign - had been impaired, the expanding economy, and her immunity from tax, had greatly increased her private fortune. This was to become a matter of increasing public dehate.

In 1971, a new Civil List settlement was made, hut at a price. In the process, a House went some way towards defining the monarch's official duties. It put the Crown more seriously on the defensive than at any time since 1936 and the alty succeeded in attracting Abdication. The Queen, through her close advisers, had to present a convincing case that she gave value for money.

At this point, the mooarchy offered an icon of stability; the harbecuing Queen, leading the life of "a fairly conventional middle-class woman". It was an image of reassurance with its emphasis on family.

for the domesticated embourgeoised Royal Family was not the Sovereign and her family to the same as a restoration of rev- unlimited scrutiny, and to erence. A lucrative trade in expect to find nothing but per-

established in the Sixties, was further stimulated in the Seventies by a circulation war among the tabloids. Yet even then the paparazzi did not challenge the "perfect family" ideal. On the whole, their images of

royals relaxing heightened it.

It was the prospect of the marriage of the heir to the throne that marked the next stage. "Every working day of my five years at the Palace," says Ronald Allison, who was press secretary from 1973 to 1978, "there was a questioning of who Prince Charles would marry."

ith the appear-ance in 1980 of Lady Diana Spencer, tabloid appetites, voracious at the hest of times. passed all hounds. In a climate of total adulation, every aspect of the couple's lives was ruth-Critical faculties were suspended, praise overflowed.

How could the Palace-media nexus be questioned, when roysuch support? Articles appeared, congratulating royalty on, among other things, the brilliance of its public relations. But the danger was that excessive familiarity and availability would reap a whirlwind if and when the geociic lotiery ceased to turn out good princes

and princesses. The fate of Margaret, the However, respect and envy Diana of her day, should have provided a warning. To expese

After the wedding. Diana achieved a rapport with the media, based on a kind of secret nution that she was a fifth columnist and, unlike the famdy she had married into, remained human, However, nothing in her previous existence had equipped her to deal with being doorstopped almust

every day of her life.

Then, in the late autumn, it was announced that the Princess was expecting a haby. The Queen and Court were finally stirred into defensive action. In November, the new press secretary, Michael Shea. took the unusual step of asking the editors of all the national papers to a special hriefing at Buckingham Palace. Of those invited, only Kelvin MacKenzie of The Sun did not attend. At the hriefing Shea made a plea for mercy. Afterwards, in a vain hope of reinforcing the essure, the editors were introduced to the Queen.

who circulated among them. The psychology was faulty. Once. Shea's direct approach might have worked. Now, however, tahloid rivalry had hecome so intense that appeals to editorial good nature had no impact. Deference was dead. Two months later, The Sun and Daily Star published pictures, taken with powerful telephoto lenses, that showed Diana wearing a hikini and visibly pregnant. When Shea issued a statement that indicated the Queen's extreme displeasure, the two papers

expressed regret - and along-

side republished the offending

pictures.

The December meeting had been a tactical errur. Now that the basest of the tahloids had shown that requests from the Palace could be ignored with impunity, there was no holding heir rivals back.

A critical moment in the altering image of British royalty came with a television show in 1987 called h's a Royal Knockout. The project was an enthu-siasm of the Queen's youngest son, Prince Edward, who had left the Royal Marines to work in the theatre. He was keen on a royal version of the slapstick programme, in which members of the royal family joined show husiness and sporting personalities who took part in ridicuous games.

"It was a terrible mistake," says one of the Monarch's friends, "She was against it. But one of her faults is that she can't say no." "There was not a single courtier," one recalls, "who did not think it was a mistake." Their advice was confounded by youthful enthusiasm and the Queen's maternal indulgence.

The programme was exeruciating - "Give us a B..." bel-lowed the Duchess of York and made the public stunningly aware that a sense of decorum was not an automatic quality in the Royal Family, and even that some members might be more deserving of their Civil List incomes than others,

In a way, it was the reductio ad absurdum of a process that had begun with Royal Family. Perhaps it was even a logical outcome. After Knockoul, the quality press joined in too. Over the next few years the Sunday Times played an impor-

tant part in establishing the idea of a "royal problem" in the minds of a middle-class teadership. The tone was not checky, as in the tabloals, but admonishing. Soon it was being pointed out that rival tax immunity was not an historic right but, on the contrary, had only been acquired in the 20th century. Taxing the Queen at 4tt per cent would yield more than £200m a year, "emough for a dozen hospitals", The Sun sug-gested gleefully. Before long even a staunch royalist such as Lord St. John of Fawsley was conceding that the exemption had become hard to detend. In November 1992 - the unms horribilis - the Prime Minister announced that the Queen would begin to pay tax on her private income from the fol-

lowing year. However, the checkiness of the tabloid, and quality, press did not diminish. Calls for a slimmed-down monarchy became widespread, and the Queen, who had no critics who dated to reveal themselves early in her reign, now seemed to have few defenders among iournalists and politicians. Though party leaders and other prominent members of the Establishment avoided joining in the chorns of detractors, few chose to give the existing system an open endorsement.

The republican movement had crept up on Australia in the Eighties in a way that served as a warning to the monarchy not to take the popular support at home, at any particular moment, for granted, At the time of the Coronation, monarchism had been almost as universal in Australia as in the United Kingdom; only 15 per cent of Australians, according to polls, favoured the idea of a repub-lic, By 1991 an opinion poll in Sculond showed more Scots in Scutland showed more Scots in facour of an elected president (48 per cent) than of tetaining the Queen (43 per cent), should Scotland ever become

independent. Thus it was that the dreaded word, republicanism, previously the mark of a crank or a revolutionary, entered respectable and even Conservative discourse. Once the word had been uttered, it became inevitable that a dehate that had heen avoided for a hundred



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PAGEONE

# jo brand's week

I'm not really a fan of the saying, "If you can't beat 'em join 'em", because it always smacks of giving in to something unsavoury. However, many women in Italy are joining "em", "em" heing the Mafia and you couldn't get much more unsavoury than that. Five years ago, just one woman was charged with membership of the Cosa Nostra and recently this figure has risen to 89. I'm afraid my knowledge of the Mafia extends only as far as Godfathers I, II and III and the women seem to have very little to do in those films, apart from having babies, getting hysterical at the drop of a hat or being blown up. Perhaps increasing equality is inevitably leading some women down the road of crime. It's no surprise to find that a lot of these new female Mafia recruits are employed in "white-collar" activities. Let's be honest, when it comes to actually chopping off the horse's head, I'm sure women are more of a soft touch than blokes

i suppose there are only so many wavs you can advertise painkillers and it was inevitable sometime that a pharmaceutical company would alight on the brilliant cliché uf women not being able to "do the business" when they have a headache. However, this was the downfall of Hedex Ibuprofen, which portrayed some woman at it like a rahhit (in soft focus, mind you) having swallowed a couple of their pills. Seventy two viewers, however, did not like this scene being shown while children were watching. So all I have to do to get that bloody awful. cringe-making, flesh-crawling ad about the talking car off the box is round up seventy-one people. Any

Any women this week who are off out to work, to college, to the sbops, out ou their own, wearing a short skirt or make-op, driving the car or just pleasing themselves, might like to spare a thought for the womeo of

Afehanistan who have found themselves landed bang in the middle of a medieval nightmare with the arrival of the Taliban fundamentalist Muslims, whose interpretation of the Koran is about as accurate as Mystic Meg's predictions. As the curtains come down on the women in more than one seose, we should thank oor lucky stars that we do not have to live in this sort of higoted and cruel society and that men here do not attempt to cootrol us in the hullying way that the Talibao have laid down the law ... apart from judges and Garry Bushell that is.

Apparently, the archetypal Labour candidate for the next election is a woman aged 40 to 44, who is or was a teacher, sits on the town council, doesn't like small talk. is a Christian, has contempt for the left and is a firm believer in law and order. Sounds appalling. Perhaps I should add, obviously thinks the sun

shines out of a certain orifice, looks like she's got a puker stuck up a cenain orifice and talks out of a certain orifice. Come back Clare Short, before we all die heneath the withering gaze of this superwoman.

I wonder who this strange bloke is

wandering round Aberdeen handing ont wads of money. So far he has handed out u £300 tip to a taxi driver and tried to stuff handfuls of moncy into various people's pockets. He says he is a Lottery winoer, olthough the Lottery lot have no knowledge of him. Typically the reaction tu him has been that, rather than anything else, he is a hit mad. I suspect some sort of covert sociological experiment, I did a course at college called ethnomethodology on which we studied the minutiae of everyday social interaction by turning expected behaviour on its head. This involved doing sociological experiments like asking people the way somewhere, pretending not to understand and

detailing their reaction. Reactions ranged from an assumption that we were mud, to anger, to one poor person getting so frustrated he put the student in question in his car and drove him to the place. It is very easy, if behaviour strays from the expected us in the case of the Aberdeen money danne, for people not to be able to incorporate it into something that makes sense. Perhaps he's just a nice hloke.

Wislawa Szymborska, and not Bob Dylan, has won the Nobel Prize for literature. Poor old Boh. Despite catching the imagination of a whole generation, it seems his at times unfathomable lyrics were just too much for the judges, Still, I'm sure Bob's conversion to Christianity will enable him to rise above it.

I wonder which past-war poem is going to win the National Poetry Doy poli. Bob Dylan and John Betjeman are io with a chance apparently, Last year a similar poll for the all-time favuorite came up with 4f by Rudyard Kipling, which demonstrated that English 'O' level lives on in many minds. It would be nice to see a slightly nousual poem come in first, but the nature of these polls is that we choose the one poem or song we can remember, which by its very onture will be populist. Fingers crussed for Bob. Can be take two defeats in such a short space of

